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Reducing harm for 60 years

Nov. 8, 2007 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | Vol. 60, No. 14 | www.martlet.ca

JOSH SZCZEPANOWSKI PHOTO

The AIDS Vancouver Island Blanshard Street office and needle exchange is the target of complaints concerning blood, human waste and public sleeping. A spokesperson for the organization says more funding is needed in order to resolve the problems.

Clean up or else

Defacement of property and loitering must stop by Nov. 30

Steve Carey

AIDS Vancouver Island (AVI) has until the end of November to clean up the area near its needle exchange or have its lease terminated.

The needle exchange, called Street Outreach Services, provides syringes and hot food and drink. Opened in 1988, it has 1,600 registered users and 25,000 visits a year.

The landlords, Yentel Property Management Inc., sent AVI a notice asking for an end to loitering and defacement of public property by Nov. 30.

Neighbours have complained about people sleeping outside, human waste, blood and dirty needles. AVI has been working for more than a year to move the needle exchange from the corner of Blanshard Street and Cormorant Street, but has been unable to secure additional funding from the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA).

Andrea Langlois, AVI spokesperson, said the landlords have been patient and supportive of the organization over the years.

"People don't have a place to go," she said. "We're the only service open after 6 p.m. and the only service open on the weekends. The people are coming here to get harm reduction supplies, but they also come to get a cup of coffee. It's a place to get food, a place to get warm, and a place to talk to somebody."

AVI is funded almost exclusively by VIHA. In January, South Island AIDS funding was cut 37.5 per cent.

See Needle exchange, p. 2

Citizens unite against land sale

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

A surfer catches a wave at the Jordan River breaks, one of the areas where public access is in question.

Sean Peterson

A public meeting at the SJ Willis school auditorium on Nov. 1 saw over 400 concerned citizens take a stand against the provincial government's removal of over 28,000 hectares of coastal forest from tree farm licenses.

At the Victoria meeting, a panel of First Nations groups and community leaders, as well as UVic's Environmental Law Clinic, lent their support to the Jordan River Steering Committee. The panel supported the steering committee's resolution to request a formal audit into Forestry and Range Minister Rich Coleman's dealings with forestry companies. The meeting comes in the wake of the UVic Environmental Law Clinic's Oct. 19 letter to the auditor general that made the same request.

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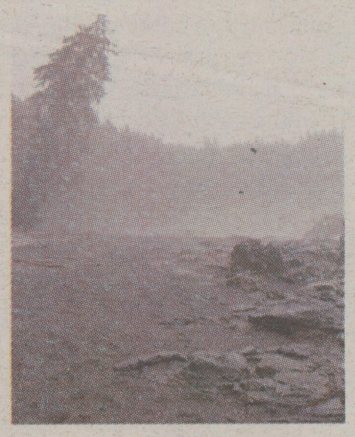

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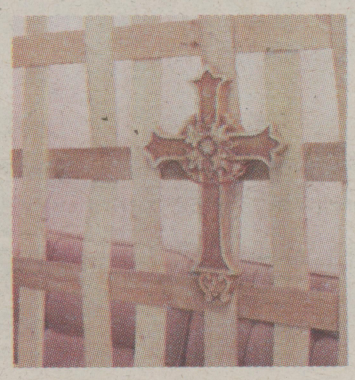

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Needle exchange creates 'huge savings' for health care system

In 1996 the needle exchange handed out 128,000 syringes to 545 clients. In 2006, it gave 830,000 syringes to 1,500 clients, with no increase in funding and only two full-time staff.

"We need the health authority to step up to the plate," said Langlois. "In the meantime, about 13 of our neighbours have got together to file a legal case for an injunction to close the needle exchange down in this location."

AVI's main goal is to prevent the spread of HIV and hepatitis C, which it does through distribution of needles and condoms. Open until 11 p.m., it hosts community education programs and acts as a place for those in need to meet street nurses. An addictions counsellor comes in one day per week.

Langlois said that AVI has been asking VIHA to increase funding so it can hire more people and therefore decrease the impact on the street. Right now AVI volunteers do street clean up.

"Over a five-year period, a needle exchange program will prevent at least 24 HIV infections," said Langlois. "One HIV infection costs $250,000 directly to the health care system. If we prevent 24 cases, that's a huge savings to the health care system. Our needle exchange runs on about $250,000 a year, and we've asked for an increase to $500,000."

Langlois said there are approximately 3,000 intravenous drug users in Victoria, of all backgrounds and social standings.

She said the needle exchange had a 104 per cent return rate for the 2006-07 fiscal year, which means it's collecting more needles than it's giving out. The Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness Report, released on Oct. 19, has called for the installation of five more needle drop boxes in the downtown core.

VIHA has hired an independent reviewer to examine and report on the needle exchange, with results expected this month.

"We're scouting locations, looking for a place, and talking to the city about where we can move into," said Langlois. "The Mayor's Task Force Report calls for more harm reduction services, and we need to work with VIHA to come up with a solution based on the recommendations of the report."

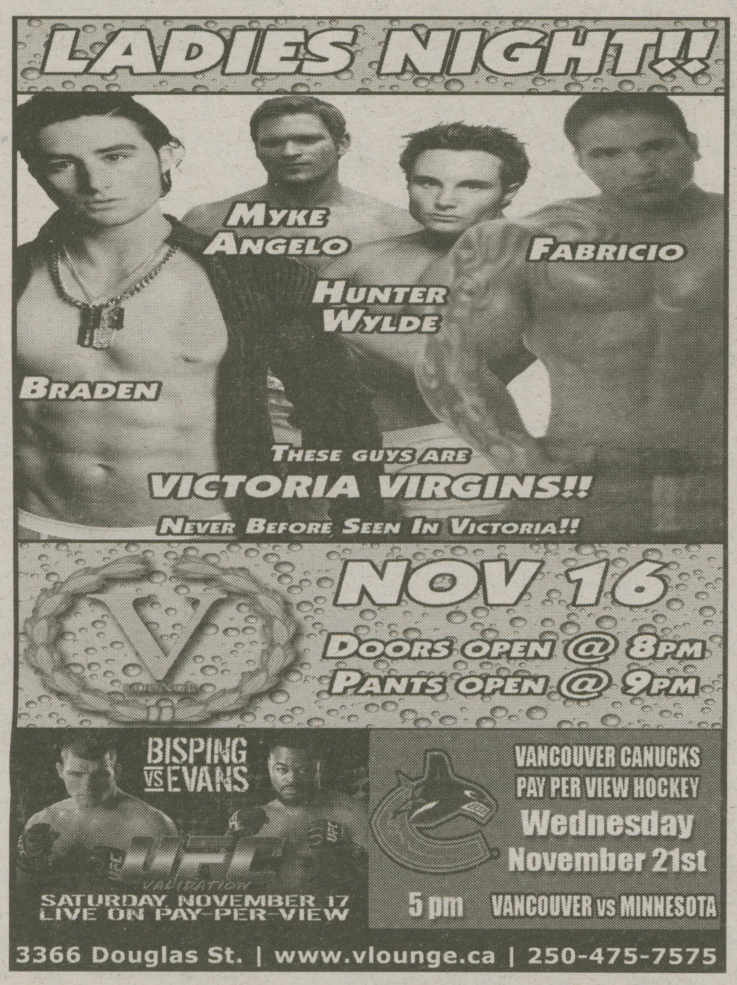
Meal fundraiser

On Dec. 1, eating dinner can help people with HIV.

To keep serving more than 40 meals a day to people with HIV, AIDS Vancouver Island is organizing the Step Up To The Plate fundraiser. You can volunteer to host a dinner, or attend one and donate.

In 2007, the Vancouver Island Health Authority stopped funding meal programs for HIV-positive people. In response, AIDS Vancouver Island's hot meal program is in trouble: the organization serves more than 40 meals a day at a cost of $4.50 a meal. AVI is hoping to raise $4,500 to fund 1,000 meals.

Anyone can host a fundraising dinner, and food type doesn't matter. AVI provides a host pack, complete with donation cards and dinner hosting tips. Those interested can contact James Boxshall at 384-2366 or james.boxshall@avi.org.



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Public wants access, compensation

In January, the government relinquished control of publicly-regulated land around Sooke Potholes, Jordan River and Otter Point to Western Forest Products, which in turn sold the Jordan River property to a developer.

Western Forest Products was not asked to give any compensation for the removal of the private land from tree farm licences. Removing land from licences allows the land to be developed, something the government usually receives compensation for.

"We see the failure to get compensation — whether in the form of parks, waterfront access, public forest lands, or environmental protection — as a critical issue," said Dana Dempster, a student representing the Law Clinic.

Dempster compared Western Forest Products to a child that is expected to share a cake with a sibling: the government handed the cake to the company, and the public can expect to be left with crumbs.

"You can't blame Western Forest Products for taking the whole cake — I would have done the same thing," she said of the company's willingness to take the land without being asked for anything in return. "But you can ask the government to do better."

"The minister has undone the original [tree farm licence] contracts. He has allowed Western Forest Products to eat their cake, and have our cake too," said Melinda Skeels, also representing the Law Clinic.

The majority of the public speakers placed blame on Coleman and the Campbell administration. Many elected representatives were present, including Victoria MP Denise Savoie. She attacked the provincial government for its "awful abuse of power," and urged all constituents to make themselves heard.

Coleman has said he sees nothing wrong with the deal. He has recently come under fire after the Dogwood Initiative compiled information showing that the Liberals received $1.7 million in donations from forest companies over the past 11 years.

As the night progressed, unanswered questions directed at the government piled high.

"They are putting our precious island up for sale," said Vicky Husband, a concerned citizen. "If this goes ahead, what quality of life are we going to have? Forty-five kilometers of urban sprawl from Sooke to Port Renfew — is this the vision of the future?"

Husband called for an "immediate moratorium on any sale and any development" involving the properties. The crowd roared their approval.

Members of the First Nations, the Sea to Sea Greenbelt Society, the Dogwood Initiative, the United Steelworkers Union and the Surfriders Foundation all voiced their support for the resolution.

No one opposed the resolution or spoke on behalf of the provincial government or Western Forest Products. The forum moderator forewent a vote, indicating the result was predictable.

Got a news tip?
Email news@martlet.ca

CORRECTIONS

The Martlet erroneously reported Nov. 1 that Jennifer King said exercising her democratic right is about taking action to stop things from happening, including preventing people from "really being drawn into something they may not know a lot about." In fact, King said her democratic right includes preventing people from "really being drawn into something they may not know the totality of."

The Martlet also erroneously reported that the Fernwood Community Association has cancelled shows because of an attack with a box cutter. In fact, the Fernwood Community Centre cancelled the shows.

Pro-Israel voices join Middle East debate

Melanie Tromp

A new student club is bringing differing perspectives to the Israel-Palestine debate after what the club's president has called an alarming number of Palestine-focused events this semester.

Andrea Sorin, president of Israel On Campus, said her club has a proactive mandate aimed at raising awareness about the Israeli side of the conflict. The club originated in reaction to what members said was a marked increase in Palestine-focused events on campus, and by extension a tension between supporters of the Palestinian people, and Jewish and Zionist supporters. Sorin said there have been two lectures, two film screenings and one now-postponed protest lacking a pro-Israel perspective.

"We believe in a two-state solution and are working to find ways to create two viable states in Israel and in Palestine," Sorin said, noting that Israel On Campus is looking toward results-based dialogue. "Basically, we are trying to raise the level of discourse and achieve just and lasting solutions to a very difficult, contentious and deeply divisive issue."

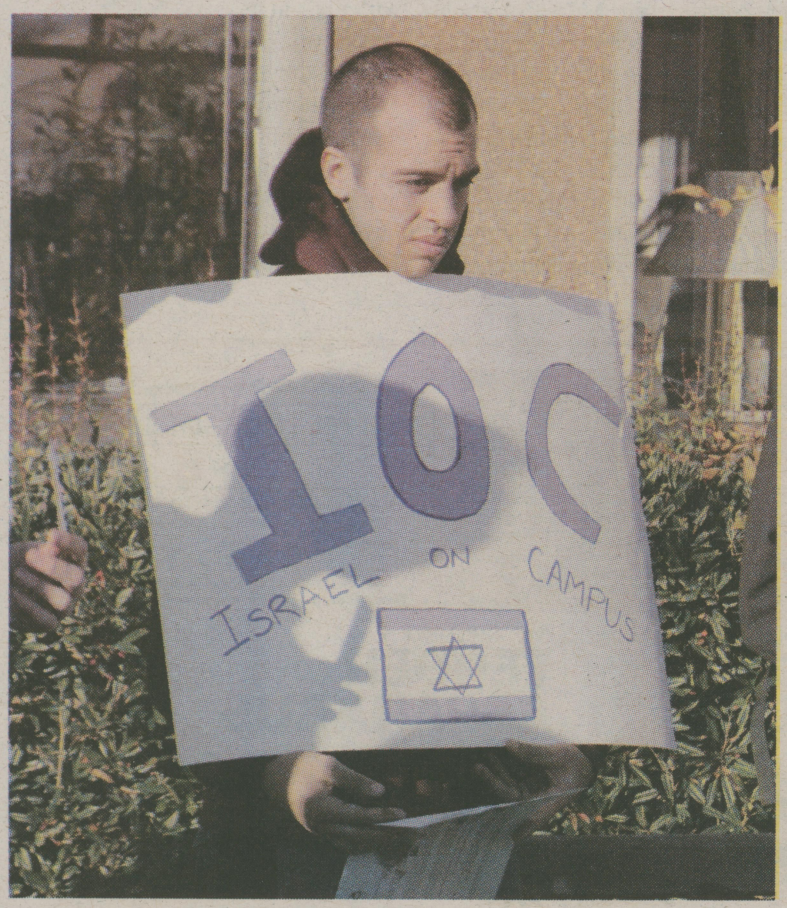
Sorin highlighted Palestinian refugee Hanna Kawas' presentation in early October as particularly unnerving, noting that the event was supposed to speak to co-existence between the two sides. Instead, Kawas gave a historical account of the conflict and, according to Sorin, misconstrued the facts.

Some Israel On Campus members said that audience comments and questions at these events bordered on anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic, specifically those regarding the Israeli government's policies on religion and same-sex relationships.

"I can see that Palestinian people opposing Israeli soldiers [are involved in] a legitimate, recognized form of resistance," said Dan Schloss, an executive member of Israel On Campus. "But it's not civilians fighting against civilians and I didn't see that distinction made at any of the events so far.

"One person made the claim that Israel does not recognize religions other than Judaism in its state, but Israel is the world capital for the Baha'i faith — the Baha'i and Christians [both] have representation in parliament."

Many of the pro-Palestinian events have been organized by local members of the Coalition Against Israel Apartheid (CAIA), a global movement formed in January 2006 that likens the Israel-Palestine conflict to apartheid in South Africa.



LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

UVic student Adon Moss attended a memorial for Yitzhak Rabin.

The CAIA is not a UVic student club, and a rep could not be reached for comment.

"The Canadian government provides extensive political and economic support to the Israeli apartheid regime," read CAIA's website. "Canadian corporations profit through investments and joint operations with Israeli companies. We work to end all Canadian complicity in this apartheid state."

The site stated that CAIA opposes all forms of racism, Islamophobia and anti-Semitism.

The UVSS-based Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG) attached its name as a sponsor to at least one of CAIA's events as well as the Joel Kovel presentation on Sept. 24 where tempers flared on both sides of the debate.

"Why is it in VIPIRG's mandate to sponsor these events?" said Sarah Foster, UVic director of the Vancouver Hillel Foundation. "If this is their constant line, it's rather worrying."

Undergraduate students at UVic automatically pay $3 per semester to fund VIPIRG. Sorin said Israel On Campus members attended VIPIRG's annual general meeting in an attempt to speak directly with the group's board.

"They were highly receptive to our feedback, and we look forward to building a fruitful relationship with them in the future," Sorin said.

VIPIRG executive director Greg Awai could not be reached for comment.

The Graduate Students' Society (GSS) co-sponsored the controversial Kovel talk, saying they believed the acclaimed speaker would draw a crowd and present an interesting opinion regardless of the audience's personal viewpoints.

"I don't think graduate students tend to be that interested in debating the content [of events] as long as they think the speaker is interesting," said Stacy Chappel, executive director of the GSS. "Kovel holds an opinion that many people in Israel hold — it's not actually a very isolated perspective. I don't necessarily think the only kinds of discussions you can have are panel discussions with five points of view. If you don't like debate, you're not in grad school, pretty much."

Chappel also noted that the GSS is open to event proposals from the Vancouver Hillel Foundation and Israel On Campus.

After meeting with both Israel On Campus and CAIA, the UVic Students Against War club (SAW) has also taken steps towards co-operation with Israel On Campus after supporting all of CAIA's events in 2006 and early 2007.

"We didn't carte blanche say yes to CAIA this year," said SAW co-chair Tim Fournier. "Initially we were reluctant with both, but through consensus we decided that we would offer our endorsement along with any help we could give to both groups, provided that those groups would not attack SAW for supporting the other."

SAW's next project may be an endorsement of the Victoria Peace Coalition's Nov. 13 panel discussion on peace in the Middle East that includes both Mordecai Briemberg (a scholar and Palestinian-sympathizer), and a local Rabbi.

"By sponsoring an event you are not endorsing a certain set of opinions that come out of the question period," said Fournier, "but it's easy to get tarred with that brush."

In response to allegations made about same-sex relationships in Israel, the Israel On Campus club recently partnered with UVic Pride to screen *Trembling Before G-d* on Oct. 15, a documentary chronicling the experiences of ultra-Orthodox and Hasidic Jewish gays and lesbians.

Israel On Campus is currently planning a campaign aimed at highlighting Israel's achievements in environmental technologies. The group will also be screening *Blood and Tears: The Arab-Israeli Conflict* this semester, a film tracing biblical origins through the eyes of both Muslims and Zionists.

Yitzhak Rabin memorial

The Israel On Campus club held a candle-lit memorial for assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin outside of the Student Union Building on Nov. 5.

The 12th anniversary of Rabin's death was Nov. 4. Rabin was an advocate of peace who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994 for his efforts toward the Israel-Palestine resolution process. He was shot by a right-wing Israeli radical.

"As the leading figure for peace at the time, [Rabin's] death represented a halt in the peace process when timing and actions were considered so vulnerable," said Israel On Campus president Andrea Sorin.

The memorial was the club's third major event since it formed in early September.

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Charges laid related to assaults at all-ages show

Steve Carey

An unprovoked brawl and box cutter attack at an all-ages show in Fernwood on Oct. 26 has left seven people injured.

Four people have been arrested so far — two males, 16- and 17-years-old, and two females, both 16-years-old. Charges include assault, assault with a weapon and robbery. As of press time, both the 17-year-old male and a 16-year-old female believed to be responsible for the slashings are in custody. She is expected to be charged with five counts of aggravated assault.

Sgt. Grant Hamilton, Victoria police spokesperson, said a 22-year-old man had a slash wound running from the left side of his jaw down to his neck, and a 20-year-old woman had facial lacerations from her forehead to her chin. A 20-year-old man had a head wound and shoulder lacerations after being slashed in the back and struck with a skateboard with nails in it.

"The injuries are fairly permanent," said Hamilton. "There's a good chance they're going to be scarred for life."

For the time being, future shows at the Fernwood Community Centre have been cancelled. The Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group will be having a meeting to talk about increasing and improving the security at events so that all-ages shows can continue at the Fernwood NRG space.

The typical all-ages promoter is 17- or 18-years-old and for them the cost of event security may cost more than the event can earn.

Jacqueline Walker, spokesperson for the resource group, said the organization is 100 per cent dedicated to all-ages shows.

"We want to keep this all-ages venue open. There aren't many left, and this is one of the best," said Walker. "We need a place for people under 19 to have a place to go in a supportive environment."

For info on the meeting, contact info@fernwoodneighbourhood.ca.

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This week in Martlet history

Stories from the Martlet archives

Nov.8, 2001 — The BC Liberal government planned to propose an act that would force the government to compensate logging companies for newly protected forests in the province. According to a statement by Gordon Campbell, the proposed act was intended to "protect families and forest communities by defining and *securing working forests in British* Columbia."

Nov. 18, 1993 — Bike thefts were a problem on campus, with four thefts in two-and-a-half months totaling over $1,000. Director of traffic Don Marykuca acknowledged the problem, but said students have to be smart about what they bring onto campus.

Nov. 17, 1988 — Picketers protested a recruitment drive at UVic by Shell Canada. The protesters led the company to move its job interviews off-campus at the last minute. About a dozen demonstrators gathered in front of the offices of the Canada Employment Centre to express their opposition to the continuing presence of Shell Canada's parent company, Royal Dutch Shell, in South Africa.

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NATIONAL NEWS

Police looking to monitor kegs

Frank Appleyard
THE FULCRUM

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Kegs like these could soon be monitored in Ottawa if the Ontario Association of Police Chiefs gets there way.

OTTAWA (CUP) — The next time Ottawa students prepare to tap a keg, they may have to register the brew at the beer store.

An initiative proposed by the Ontario Association of Police Chiefs (OAPC) at a January meeting with the Ministry of Government Services hopes to see all kegs sold in Ontario registered upon sale. The goal is to better track ownership of both the beer and the ensuing party.

According to Damian Parrent, a superintendent with Niagara Police Services and the chair of the OAPC's Alcohol and Gaming Committee, the move is in response to an increase in police intervention at student-run keg parties.

"The issue of the keg registry has come about because of the growing problem of alcohol in post-secondary facilities. It's not the problems on the actual campuses, but in the neighbourhoods surrounding the campuses," said Parrent. "It's grown to a point where these parties are a huge tax on police resources."

The primary issue from an OAPC perspective is that many of the parties are involved in the unlicensed serving of alcohol — including underage drinking — and are therefore illegal.

"The kegs need a registry number, in our view. The person buying them needs to show some kind of identification, so that if the party goes south, and the police are there, and nobody's admitting anything, then there's accountability as to who is responsible," said Parrent.

Ottawa Police Services Sgt. Kal Ghadban told the CBC on Aug. 30 that the initiative is not an effort to eliminate keg parties.

"If people want to party ... we're not trying to stop them from partying. What we want to happen is [for] them to do it safely and in a safe environment," he said.

Some students, however, have raised concerns about students' privacy in such a registry. François Picard, a vice-president with the University of Ottawa students' union, is opposed to the idea.

"It seems to be quite a strange step in terms of privacy. You'd think this kind of information would be protected," he said.

Ottawa city councillor Georges Bédard — whose ward includes Sandy Hill, a neighbourhood with a strong student community — is supportive of the proposed registry.

> "You'd think this kind of information would be protected."
> – *François Picard*

Bédard said that, apart from helping fed up neighbours, it may even help party-throwers.

"I think it's even beneficial for people who throw the parties. They'll know where they stand in terms of the law and their responsibilities," said Bédard, adding that he is not against keg parties as long as they are lawful. "Actually, from an environmental point of view, having one keg is better than having hundreds of other containers."

From a policing standpoint, Parrent said the registry would make it easier for police to respond to complaints of out-of-control parties.

"The work is already there, because we've got the call about a crazy party going on. It's more frustrating trying to track down who's responsible," he said. "Let's say there's damage. [With a registry] you just go to the party and say, 'Well, so-and-so registered a number of kegs to this address.'"

Still, Picard is uncomfortable with police being able to access personal information before any problems are reported.

"I'm not sure if it's the kind of info that should be automatically given," he said. "If there are any issues or problems that occur, the police can then have access to it to find out who's responsible."

Despite these concerns, police intervention at keg parties is already becoming more common, even before the beer begins to flow or any complaints are filed, Parrent said.

"[Keg parties] come to our attention more and more now because they're on Facebook or MySpace," he said. "I know in St. Catharines just recently, we've actually intercepted a couple [of parties]. We actually went out to the house, and the parents were going to be away or something. It was shut down before it got started."

Racism posters cover campus

Posters call for students to name, seek and destroy racism

Amy Zicker

"Racism in your face" was just one of the many anti-racism poster slogans UVic students were greeted with en route to class on Oct. 25.

The posters originated in a women's studies class called Anti-Racist Feminisms and Democratic Futures.

Megan Henshaw, Aimi Nakamura, Kara Hill and Karla Matkovic decided to take definitions from the class glossary project, and display them in very visible spaces around campus.

"Through our women's studies classes, this discipline is teaching us that people aren't aware of what privilege is given to them by their colour, or the disadvantages that they receive because of their colour," said Henshaw. "A lot of people just assume that because we are a multicultural society, racism does not exist. Obviously, that is completely far from correct."

The foursome posted close to 100 banners around UVic. Their goal was to get everyone on campus thinking about racism and white privilege, and to give phrases for people to consider and talk about on their way to classes.

"We posted questions like 'Racism is happening right here on campus what are you prepared to do to stop it?' — things like that," said Henshaw, adding their target audience was anyone who did not think racism still exists. "I figured it would be a good point to throw questions out there, put them in people's face, which is why we chose to call it 'Racism in your Face.'"

Most of the members of the UVic community the Martlet approached to talk about the project were unable to comment on the posters because they had not seen them. Jo-Anne Lee, a professor in women's studies, said this could be interpreted as the project not being successful, but may also speak to the difficulties in disrupting the normality and passivity of what never gets talked about — race and racism.

Many people who noticed the posters were puzzled as to who posted them. Students gave very different interpretations of whether the overall project was successful and of who the intended audience was — with answers ranging from everyone, to those affected by racism to those unaware of racism.

"I think [the posters] are effective in trying to raise an awareness ... but in terms of action, I don't know," said student Courtney Crucil.

> "A lot of people just assume that because we are a multicultural society, racism does not exist."
> – *Megan Henshaw*

Lee added that without a proper context to place the posters, it is very easy for the meaning to be confused.

"Kudos to them for putting that energy into it and to bring awareness to this language of racism, but I think if the reading is one of confusion then I wonder how effective this type of anti-racism strategy is," said Lee.

The four women plan to continue posting new banners throughout November.

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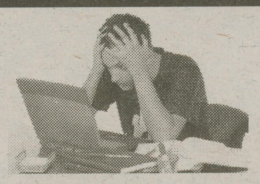

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Opinions

EDITORIAL

AIDS needle exchange is solution, not problem

Not in my backyard.

Those words are easy to say, but they are never a solution to a problem. When AIDS Vancouver Island, which runs a local needle exchange, was told they have until the end of the month to shape up or ship out, it was indicative of a greater problem — a lack of focus on disease prevention.

This year, the provincial government has budgeted $12.83 billion for health care — 42 per cent of B.C.'s total budget. But that doesn't make us healthy. A 2001 study by GPIAtlantic found that more than a quarter of adult British Columbians are overweight, estimating that obesity-related illnesses cost our province's health care system $380 million per year. The annual budget for the needle exchange, $250,000, makes up 0.0019 per cent of that.

A cost-benefit analysis has shown that the needle exchange produces more good than harm. By a rough estimate, the needle exchange saves the health care system $1.2-million per year by preventing almost five cases of AIDS per year. It doesn't sound like much, but it adds up. The drug counselling services which AIDS Vancouver Island also offers likely help the health care system even more.

AIDS Vancouver Island has asked for their budget to be doubled, which would make their budget take up a whopping 0.0039 per cent of health care expenditures in this province. Needless to say, the government can afford to chip in.

That doesn't negate the problem resulting from the needle exchange, sometimes resulting in people sleeping on the streets, human waste, blood and dirty needles near the exchange. AIDS Vancouver Island needs to clean up after its patrons and ensure they're not damaging the neigbourhood. Remember that AIDS Vancouver Island has been in that location for nearly 20 years. Did residents and shop owners seriously think the surrounding area would be devoid of social malaise?

Lately, defacement of public property around AIDS Vancouver Island has been a prolific problem, but that doesn't mean we should throw out the baby with the bathwater. In this case, more law enforcement around the area is clearly needed. It isn't right that seniors don't feel safe walking the streets, that local businesses and public property are littered with condoms, needles and in some cases fecal matter. It isn't right that there are fights and shouting matches on the street, and that citizens are in many cases left to fend for themselves. Social workers are not asked to work in unsafe conditions, and neither should citizens.

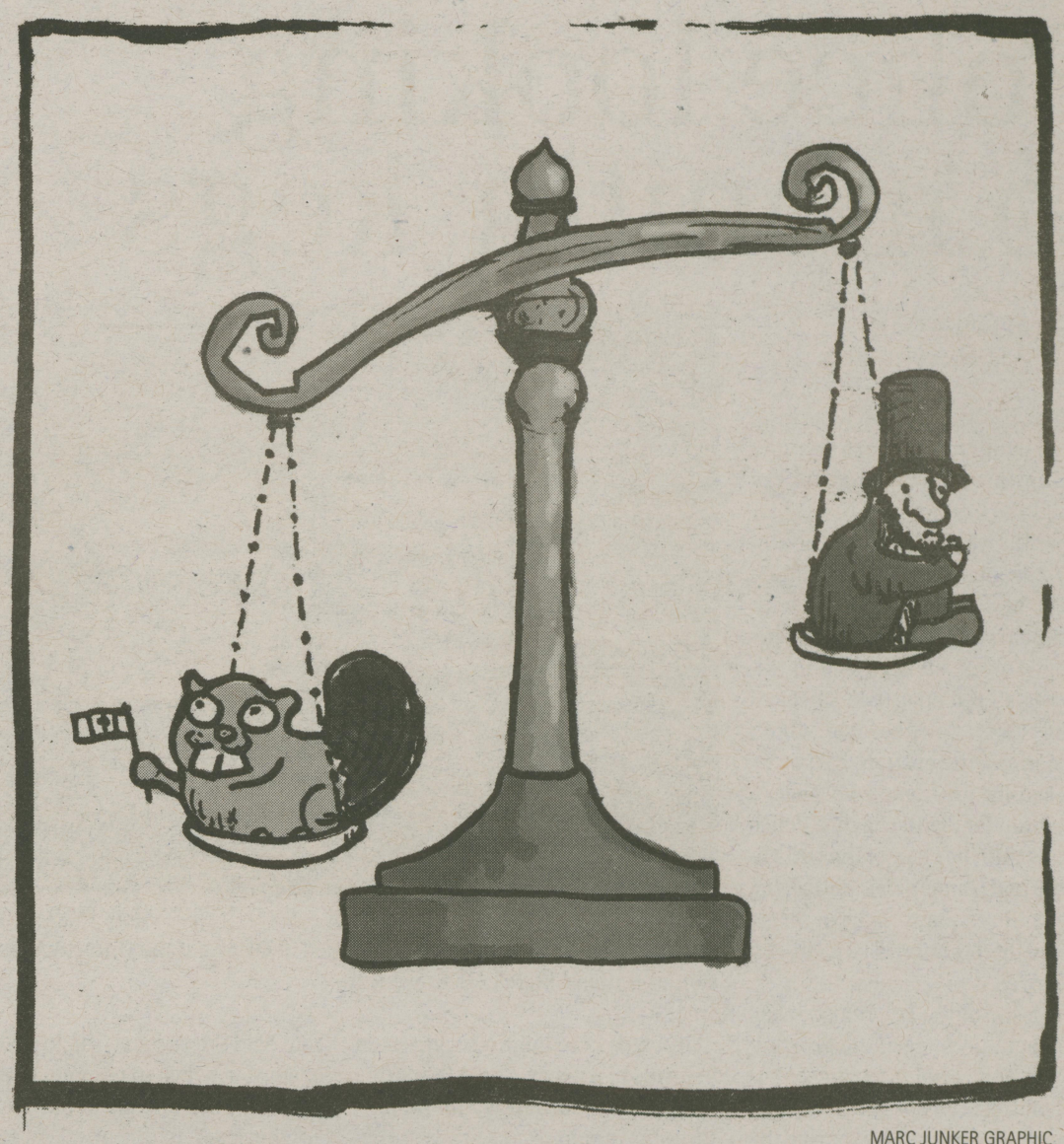
There needs to be a direct crackdown on this sort of anti-social behavior. This is a responsibility of city hall and the provincial government. AIDS Vancouver Island does not have the means or mandate to do this job, but the police do.

AIDS Vancouver Island is working well. Research has shown this fairly consistently. Since opening in 1988, the needle exchange has had 1,600 registered users and 25,000 visits a year. In 2006-07, it distributed 740,000 needles and had 104 per cent returned. More needles are coming back than staying on the street and people are using the system. The needle exchange is a worthwhile investment and serves Victoria superbly.

There are certainly problems, but the cause isn't AIDS Vancouver Island. Look no further than the complacent attitude of civic and provincial officials. More teamwork is needed to solve this problem.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 12:30 p.m. every Friday in the Martlet office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

OUR BOOMING DOLLAR



MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

LETTERS

UVic not so bad after all

Roshan Virk may not be impressed with the standard of education delivered at UVic, especially when compared to College of the Atlantic (Time for tinkering is over, Nov. 1) but he should do a little more research and be a little less quick to criticize. What Virk failed to mention was the cost associated with the idealized College of the Atlantic — approximately $39,405. Tuition alone is nearly $30,000. When you compare that to modest tuition fees at UVic, approximately $4,500 for a student with a full 10 courses, it becomes less clear who is getting more bang for their buck. Moreover, with all College of the Atlantic students being forced into the field of "Human Ecology," perhaps a broader education is indeed offered at more conventional post-secondary institutions.

- Mike Renaud, UVic student

Plastic bag problem is solvable

The local, regional, and provincial levels of government need to create incentives for consumers to reduce, reuse, and recycle paper and plastic shopping bags. Our landfills are filled with plastic that takes years to break down. The petroleum products that these shopping bags are made from are contaminating our earth, air and water.

People can reduce by purchasing cloth or biodegradable shopping bags. Grocery retailers can offer special prizes or discounts for consumers who use cloth bags. The government can also charge a fee for every additional plastic bag that was used to encourage waste reduction and raise funds for environmental initiatives.

It is also important to reuse shopping bags. In this way, consumers will not have to purchase any new bags. They can also double bag if necessary without a penalty. Last, people need to recycle their paper and plastic shopping bags in their local curbside recycling program. This needs more educational awareness and participation from the general public.

Hopefully, with this three-fold approach, there will be less paper and plastic in our landfills. This reduce, reuse and recycle system is just one more necessary step toward protecting our fragile environment.

- Amar Sangha, Delta, B.C.

Hooray for pot

As North Americans reconsider how we look at drugs and live with them (Let's rethink drug discourse, Nov. 1), let's start by realizing that cannabis (marijuana) isn't even a drug but rather a relatively safe, God-given plant.

- Stan White, Dillon, Col..

Count underestimated

I would like to note several things in your follow-up article on the UVSS annual general meeting (Military welcome, Nov. 1).

First of all, Jennifer King did not say, "...and to prevent people from really being drawn into something they may not know a lot about." She said, "...and to prevent people from really being drawn into something they may not know the totality of." There is a huge difference between these two; one asserts the students are stupid, and the second asserts that students may not have access to the reality of a situation.

Secondly, writing that roughly 25 people at the AGM voted in favour to ban the military is a vast understatement. I'm not sure if David Karp was at the meeting or if he is basing his information on the front page picture of the Nov. 1 Martlet, but I'm sure that the more than 25 people voted in favour of the motion. The Martlet should report on events in a concrete way, not by frivolous guesswork. [*Ed. note: The Martlet counted from a photo of students voting in favour of the motion*]

- Joey Rotenburg, UVic student

Cute bunnies

You have been told that bunnies can be the following: cute, cuddly, fluffy and big-eared. One thing that the bunnies don't want you knowing is that they are deadly. In the day, you can see them running around and having fun with each other. In fact, they are practising their ninja skills. Do you honestly believe that they just sit there all day and eat grass? The bunnies want you to believe that, but what they really are doing is listening to us. Slowly, they will get to know our weaknesses and us. Have you ever noticed that there are almost no bunnies out at night, and the few that are out stand around and watch you like bouncers? What are they really doing? I do not know? AH! A bunny just broke into my room. It has a knife?

- Robert Day, UVic student

Happy? Sad? Enraged? Engaged? Tell us: letters@martlet.ca

The Martlet has an open letters policy and will endeavour to print every letter received from the university community. Letters must be submitted by e-mail, include your real name and affiliation to UVic, and have "Letter to the editor" in the subject line. Letters must be under 200 words and may be edited.

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Tax cuts are narrow-minded

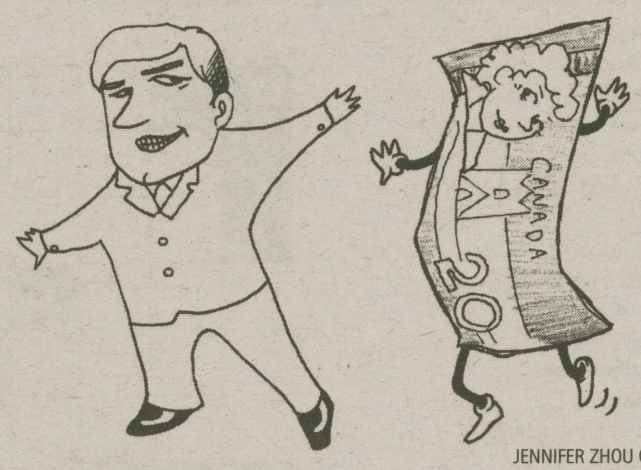
Adam Terpstra

With the Harper government planning new tax breaks, Canadians are split over deciding who to support.

It seems we're either in support of Harper and his tax cuts, or we're in support of the economists and opposition MPs who condemn the federal government for the cuts. However, it seems that Canadians have blatantly disregarded the core issue — Harper's decision to unilaterally redistribute a windfall through tax breaks.

Canada's current financial situatation has less to do with any wise decisions of the Conservative government over the last fiscal year than with the reality of what happens when a government slashes social spending — this, of course, is something one need not explain to an Ontarian who paid taxes during the Mike Harris days. As Harper reduces spending in key social sectors, such as health care, education and the environment, his government is able to bask in the glory of producing a record budget surplus. A reduction in the GST was one of Harper's plans in his election platform, so it's no surprise he managed to fulfill this meager promise.

But where are all the cries for the redistribution of this spending into the two most important sectors of our country, health care and education? Why aren't people sending letters to the editor or to their respective MP requesting their money be redistributed into these key areas? Isn't a spending increase in health care and education more important to Canadians than these one-dimensional tax cuts?



JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

One of the issues in the last federal election was health care spending. Now, a couple of superficial tax cuts later and everyone has forgotten about the issue. Even education spending has been curtailed over recent years.

This was a key opportunity for Liberal leader Stéphane Dion, or even NDP leader Jack Layton, to show a definitive difference between himself and the Conservative government by means other than simply voting against the bill.

Dion could have taken the high road and stood up to support another way of redistributing the budget surplus. He could have illustrated to his caucus and Canadians that he has what it takes to be a leader and that he has his own ideas. Unfortunately, Dion has now talked himself into a corner for the next election and has only two options for campaigning this issue. He'll either oppose Harper's actions (which will go over like a lead balloon) or will leave them unchanged (which will undoubtedly hurt his electoral base).

While Harper passes his Mickey Mouse bills, and Dion continues to stand idle, Canadians are led to believe that Harper is only interested in doing what's right for the working middle class.

The reality is that these tax cuts serve only two real purposes — to aid Harper in his attempt to sway more votes his way in the next election (whenever that will be) and to increase Harper's ability to further illustrate the disorganization of Dion's Liberal party.

Harper is a brilliant leader only insofar as he knows how to put on a brilliant show. However, one shudders to think what he would do if he were to gain a majority government.

Governor General still relevant

Grace Last

Canada's Governor General is still useful, despite what critics say.

Canada achieved responsible government in 1867, meaning that the political head of state needs the support of the legislature to govern. Canada has a dual executive — a formal head of state (Queen Elizabeth II) and a political head of state (Prime Minister Stephen Harper). The Queen is represented by Governor General Michaëlle Jean.

The relevance of the Governor General is increasingly criticized due to the irrelevance of the Queen. However, the Governor General is greatly important.

Our system of responsible government relies on convention, something which the Governor General is an integral part of. She has the power to assent to bills passed by both houses of Parliament — however, she can also withhold this assent or disallow any statute. It is only upon convention that she complies with the advice of the Prime Minister or other elected ministers in assenting or disallowing bills and statutes. Our individual rights are protected by constitutional laws — political rights are protected by conventions.

Conventions, which allow for an evolving and flexible system of government, cannot be enforced through the legal system. UVic professor Mona Brash described the Constitution of Canada as having two parts: an inner skeleton, which is solid and not changing, and a "fleshy" outer layer that is constantly changing. Conventional rights are the fleshy outer layer, and without it Canada's Constitution would cease to function as it does today.

The Governor General also functions as an impartial judge. Constitutional expert Peter Hogg described the Governor General's duties as setting aside partisan considerations and acting impartially in the interests of the country.

Although the Governor General is unelected, and therefore has less political clout, she protects Canadians from repeated elections and resolves crises. If a government in power lacks the support of the House of Commons, it is up to the Governor General to either call a new election, or dismiss the government and resolve deadlock. Her presence allows the country to move on, legislate and govern.

The Governor General should be highly valued because of her role in responsible government and our unwritten Constitution, and her ability to resolve conflict in government. She upholds conventional or unconstitutional rights that allow politics to function in an orderly fashion. Resolution of crisis in government — impartial actions in the best interests of the country — depends on the Governor General. The Governor General isn't just something left over from the past — the office is active in the Canadian government today, and is a key part of what keeps our government functioning.

It's selfish times this me-llennium

Spencer Anderson

The use of technology has been the defining characteristic of what defines us as human beings and seperates us from the "lesser" creatures.

This is what humanity ultimately comes down to: our ability to form tools from the surrounding elements. This ability has served our civilizations well, and ensured our survival.

We braved the cold with fire. We fought off predators with sharpened sticks. Soon we became predators ourselves. We have risen to the top of the food chain because we have developed ways of killing bigger things, fought microscopic organisms that cause disease, and from there it only gets more impressive.

Yes, technology has made us great. But why stop at greatness? We could do so much better.

We've entered the realm of vanity, and it's a bit much. Just about every college student has a Facebook.com account, but think about what a frivolous thing it really is. It's commonly referred to as a "social-networking site," but all that means is that its worth is contingent upon other people having similar accounts. In and of itself, it's self-promotion.

It goes beyond Facebook. There's also MySpace.com, spaces.live.com, LinkedIn.com, Friendster.com and I'mGreat.com. OK, I made the last one up, but it doesn't seem out of place. I'd be a bit put out if the Internet vanished, but I can honestly say that I will never fall in love with it as so many others have.

Some people can say with a straight face that blogs and online articles will replace newspapers and books. But there's a reason why this will never come to fruition. Anyone can blog — anyone can write an article and publish it online. And the Internet will never tell you that your book isn't very good. However, no one will ever take it seriously. Why? Because they're too busy writing in their blog about how stupid other people's opinions are.

This comes back to the original point: technology empowers us to be enormously pompous and self-absorbed. We don't so much use technology to help us improve our lives so much as we use it to pander to our ego.

Cellphones can be an excellent example of this. We've turned a useful, practical device into a validation of how popular we are. Who needs 1,000 minutes, anyways? Some people enjoy the sounds of their own voices a little too much. I'm constantly chastised by my friends about not leaving my phone on when I go out, but I think it's a little unfair of them, to be honest — is it too much to ask for a little alone time once in a while?

Technology has served us well, but it does us a disservice by pandering to our lesser instincts. Most of us want a society where people listen to each other. But a few IPods and cellphones later, no one pays attention to what's going on around them anymore.

Good things have come out of technology, but too much is too much. Sorry, I meant "2 much."

Diversions

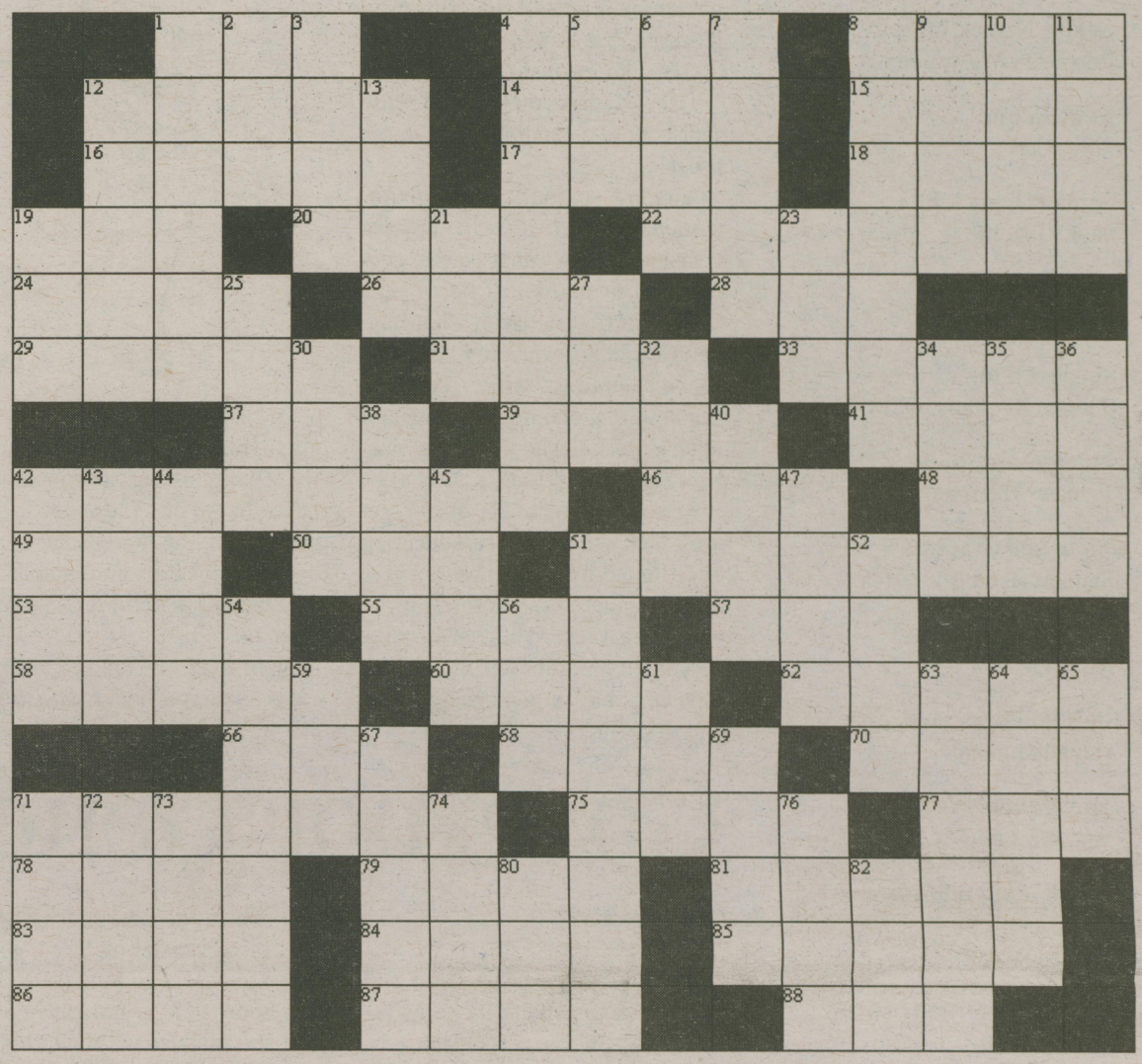
The Ontarion Crossword by Krystian Imgrum (CUP)

Across

1. Lyrical composition
4. Insufferable one
8. Creep
12. Best
14. Helper
15. Murder on the ____
16. Television predecessor
17. Farm feed
18. Swindler's scheme
19. Animal pouch
20. Fabric structure
22. Critiques
24. Amass
26. Disable
28. Took the reins
29. Warn
31. Incite
33. Tattles
37. Charged particle
39. Author Chomsky
41. Marsh bird
42. Misleading
46. Highland cap
48. New (pr.)
49. 90's game
50. Land parcel
51. Criticize (in speech)
53. Oodles (2 wds.)
55. Cabbage kin
57. Take to court
58. Proboscises
60. Tramp
62. Bee band
66. Actress Ryan
68. Common songbird
70. Peter Pan pirate
71. Drives
75. Showy flower
77. Cereal grass
78. Uncool
79. Was in hoc
81. Van Dyke, for ex.
83. State
84. Meteorologist's device
85. Epics
86. Desires
87. Soufflé needs
88. Humorist Brooks

Down

1. Greek prophet
2. Failed bomb
3. Project
4. Fortified locations
5. Grease
6. Pepé Le Pew's pitfall
7. Stave off
8. Reporter's informant
9. French city
10. Talon
11. Adjusts clothes
12. Follow
13. Ozymandias, for ex.
19. Mineral spring
21. Hen-peck
23. Dog's doc
25. Red Viking?
27. Former Chinese ruler
30. Slave away
32. Star Trek character
34. Clark Kent's lady
35. In place of
36. Gin variety
38. Secluded place
40. Marvin's home
42. Full extent
43. Water sport
44. Narcissist features
45. Salt Lake City state
47. Spiegelman comic
51. Scottish isles
52. 6 o'clock program
54. Mitigates
56. Blow or brow
59. Witness
61. Above, to a bard
63. Indifferent
64. Picks up Tolstoy
65. Encountered
67. Jackson accessory
69. Pen points
71. Shaw output
72. Unbridled speech
73. Sign
74. Lurch
76. Sewer's line
80. School subj.
82. Prepare wine



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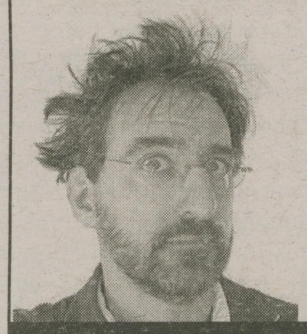

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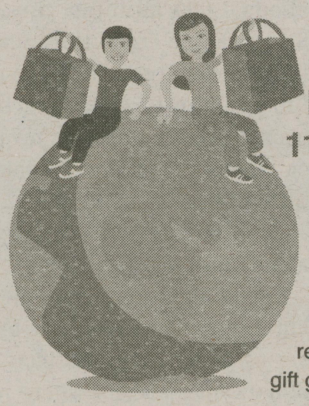

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UVic Idol 07
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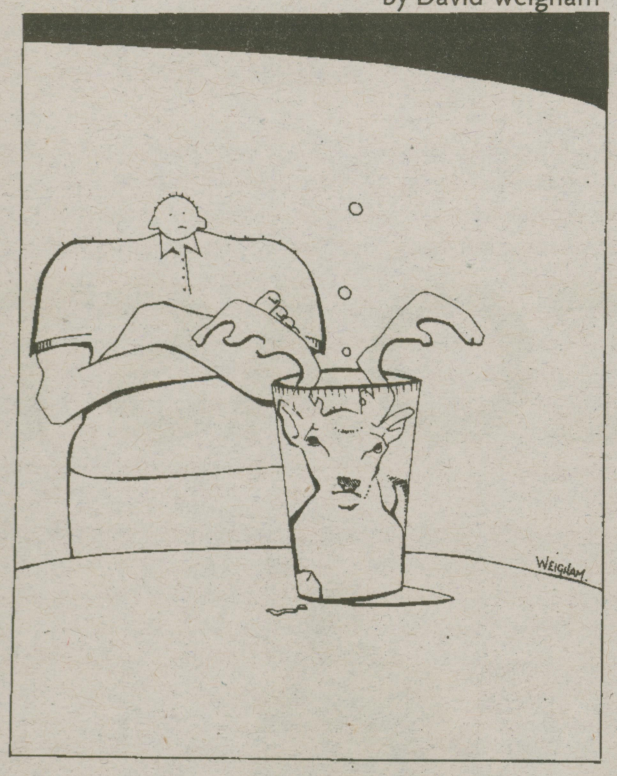
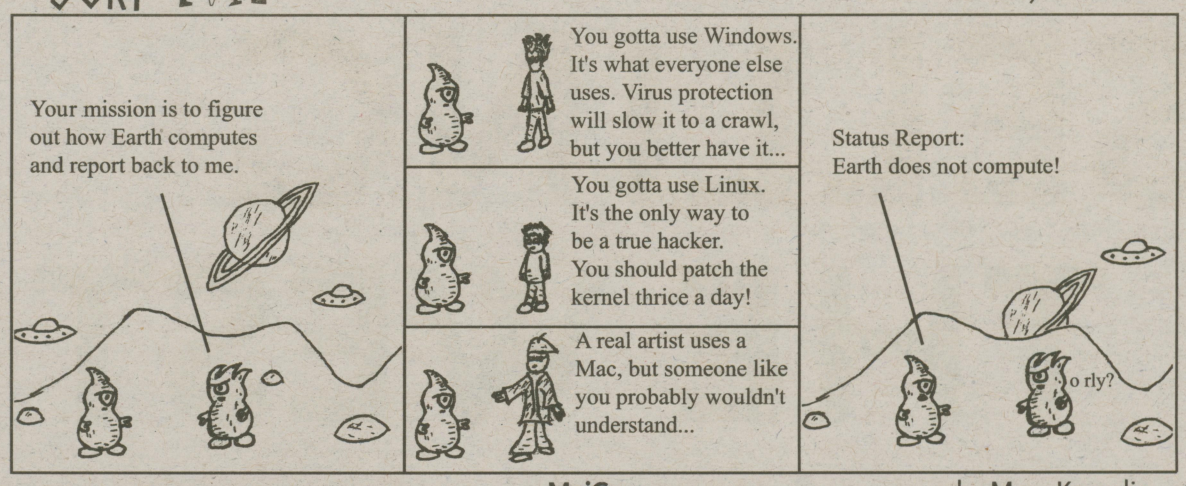
2nd PRIZE:
2 round trip tickets in Western Canada from West Jet
3rd PRIZE:
$100 SUB card
TICKETS
$5 in advance
$7 at door
Available @ Felicita's & SUB Info Booth
VANCOUVER ISLAND BREWERY
UVSS
Felicita's campus pub
TRAVEL CUTS

DAVE by David Weigham



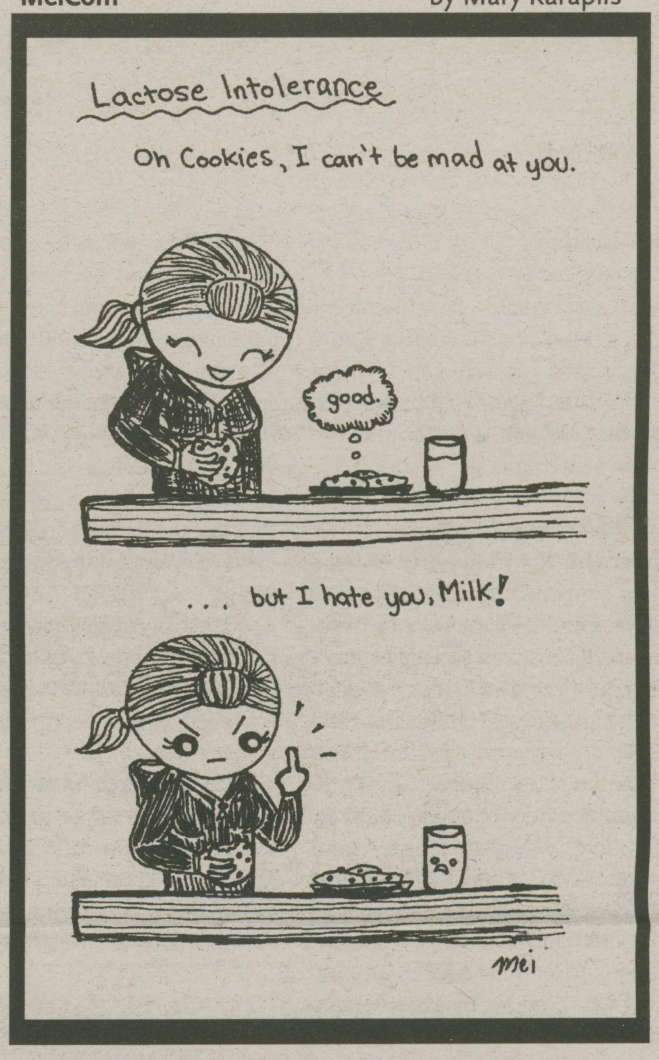
DAVE WENT TO THE STUDENT BAR AND THOUGHT HE ASKED FOR A GLASS OF BEER

CORP EVIL by Gord Duff


Your mission is to figure out how Earth computes and report back to me.
You gotta use Windows. It's what everyone else uses. Virus protection will slow it to a crawl, but you better have it...
You gotta use Linux. It's the only way to be a true hacker. You should patch the kernel thrice a day!
A real artist uses a Mac, but someone like you probably wouldn't understand...
Status Report: Earth does not compute!
o rly?

Tuesday Night... by Jennifer Zhou

MeiCom by Mary Karaplis



NOOSEHEAD ©2007 BY SAM LOGAN.
READ THEM ALL AT: WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM

HEY, CRUSH. WHERE'S THE BEAR?
FUZZY? HE'S NOT HERE. I THOUGHT HE WAS STAYING WITH YOU THIS WEEK, AARON.
UGH! NOT AFTER I CAUGHT HIM MAKING "ADORABLE MOBILES" OUT OF MY CD COLLECTION, HE ISN'T.
WELL, WHERE IS HE? WE CAN'T PLAY POKER WITHOUT A FOURTH MAN.
SANDRA, IF THAT LITTLE HAIRBALL IS RUNNING AROUND UNSUPERVISED THEN POKER IS THE LEAST OF OUR PROBLEMS. WE SHOULD PROBABLY GO FIND HIM BEFORE HE COMMITS A FELONY.
LIKE HELL WE SHOULD. I WAS PROMISED SOME SERIOUS HIGH-STAKES BETTING HERE TODAY, CRUSH. I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL I GET MY GAMBLING ON.
BRAND
Riiiing!
Riing Riing!
GREAT. I BET THAT'S THE COPS CALLING ABOUT HIM, NOW.
YOU'RE ON! FIVE BUCKS SAYS IT'S ACTUALLY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.
TEN SAYS IT'S THE MORGUE!
THUMP!

SELLING THE WEST COAST

The release of large coastal properties from public control has ignited fears about the future of the land

Tim Lindsay

Claire MacDonald probably didn't think her passion for surfing would lead to this: standing in front of hundreds of people in a packed auditorium, her hands sweating as she clasps a microphone.

"My heart is pounding in my throat because I am absolutely horrified with the possibility of what might happen if these lands do go to a developer," said MacDonald, member of a local surfing foundation.

Her audience includes federal, provincial and local politicians; First Nations representatives; union and environmental leaders; the chief operating officer of a major lumber company; a land developer; and hundreds of concerned citizens. The Nov. 1 public forum was called to discuss a provincial government decision to let Western Forest Products (WFP) remove over 28,000 hectares of private land from their tree farm licences (TFLs) while retaining exclusive logging rights on over 850,000 hectares of public land.

"Our main interest is protecting coastal ecosystems, watersheds and ensuring safe, clean access to the beaches for everyone — not just people who have money who can afford waterfront homes in Jordan River," MacDonald said to thunderous applause.

MacDonald and the surfing association aren't the only ones concerned about what the government has done. The government's apparent giveaway of huge tracts of public land to some of their biggest election campaign donors has upset many — according to the Times Colonist, Western Forest Products donated $103,247 to the BC Liberals over the last 10 years. Others resent that these decisions are being made in secrecy, wreaking havoc on municipal and regional plans. Some residents of rural communities adjacent to the land say their way of life is at risk and that they are ill-equipped to manage any large-scale developments.

The provincial government is simply helping an important employer facing financial difficulties, said Minister of Forests and Range Rich Coleman. Coleman says he is acting on the advice of ministry staff.

GIVING AWAY THE CAKE

"The more we looked into the minister's decision, the more concerned we became about an apparent mismanagement of public resources," said Dana Dempster, a UVic law student who helped prepare a request for the B.C. auditor general to investigate major land deals between the minister of forests and WFP. "The public does not appear to have received any compensation — not for the release of the private lands from the TFL nor for WFP's continued control over the remaining public land in the TFL."

Supporters of the government's decision have accused critics such as Dempster of not respecting private property rights. Melinda Skeels, another UVic law student, said the government supporters are misguided.

"No one forced forestry companies to place private lands into TFLs," she said. "They gained a huge benefit from these contractual arrangements. Under the TFL contracts, companies put a relatively small amount of private forest land into TFLs and in return got exclusive rights to harvest timber on much larger areas of public land."

Companies have the option to let the TFL expire every few years. If that happens, the company gets its land back and so does the public.

"But that's not what happened here," said Skeels. "Instead, the minister removed the private lands while allowing WFP to retain all the same rights to public timber." Under this deal, if the public now wants to establish parks on public land in these TFLs, it will have to pay WFP, said Skeels.

"WFP got the whole cake and is now sharing the pieces with land developers and foreign investors, while the people of B.C. — the First Nations, the forestry workers, the residents, the recreational users — we are left with the crumbs. Where is our piece? That's what we want the auditor general to find out."

The letter to the auditor general says the minister could have obtained compensation by acquiring parklands, continued waterfront access, public access for recreational purposes, and watershed and wildlife protection.

In the legislature, Coleman defended his decision.

"This decision was made after consultation with my staff. It's done," said Coleman. "It wasn't about us getting compensation. It was about trying to create an environment for an opportunity for a company to have stable investment in the future and to look at some of the highest and best uses of the land."

THWARTED PLANNING

Aside from the issue of compensation, forum participants said they resented that the decision was made in secrecy, especially since it impacted various land-use plans. The private property taken from the TFL near Jordan River is being sold for real estate development. This has

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Surfers have lost the public right of access to the beaches where they surf. Some are calling for a Jordan River park.

TIM LINDSAY PHOTO

Citizens, residents, surfers and municipal politicians were among those who expressed outrage that the B.C. government freed up property for development without any public consultation.

TIM LINDSAY PHOTO

What is a tree farm license?

A tree farm licence (TFL) is an agreement between the B.C. government and a company which sets out the conditions for logging within an area of land.

Most land in B.C. is publicly owned. In the 1940s and '50s the government began handing out long-term exclusive rights to log large areas of public land to companies who agreed to the conditions of a TFL. Originally, the government required companies to invest in new mills in order to obtain a TFL. This was eliminated from TFLs earlier this decade.

Nowadays, TFLs require that companies conduct forest inventories, replant logged areas, respect environmental regulations, log at sustainable levels set by the government and pay fees to the government for wood logged on public land.

Companies have been required to contribute their own private land in order to obtain a TFL, and with it access to public land. The heart of the current issue is that the B.C. government has allowed Western Forest Products to remove its private land from TFL restrictions. This means the company can develop its private land without restrictions, while still having exclusive access to public land.

major implications for the Capital Regional District (CRD), Greater Victoria's regional governing body.

"Clearly, the minister had to know that these lands were part of the regional district," said Vic Derman, a Saanich councilor and CRD director. "And clearly the minister had to know there had been a regional process of planning going on for a long period of time."

The CRD's parks plan didn't address the area of private land in the TFLs because those lands were designated as "forest land reserves."

"Nobody in their wildest dream thought the status of those lands would change without a process of consultation with local government. But that consultation simply didn't happen," Derman said.

The development of those lands would affect transportation, quality of life, urban sprawl and climate change considerations — all key factors in the regional growth strategy, said Dermin.

Another plan affected by the sale of private TFL lands is the Vancouver Island Land and Resource Management Plan. It covers all of Vancouver Island and was created after a "tremendous amount public input," said Emma Lehrer, another UVic law student.

"In light of the degree of consultation required in the preparation of the plan, procedural fairness suggests the public has a legitimate expectation to be consulted if the plan is significantly changed," she said.

The management plan divides Vancouver Island into various resource management zones, attempting to balance the diverse and sometimes conflicting values of citizens and stakeholders. The 28,000 hectares of private land overlaps with various zones including, for instance, "enhanced forestry" areas. Selling the private lands for residential development is inconsistent with the zoning in the management plan.

"Before approving the release of these lands, the law requires government to notify and consult the public, which was not done," said Lehrer. "In failing to ensure that the public was consulted, the decision to release the land was beyond the scope of the minister's authority."

In the legislature, Coleman was asked whether any communities aside from First Nations communities were consulted before making this decision.

"We didn't," said Coleman. "These are private lands. The decision was made to remove them from the TFL."

First Nations representatives said their hopes for fair land settlements have been shaken.

"The T'Sou-ke Nation very much wants to see the provincial government held accountable to the public in all of its land-use decisions," said Dominique Noubet, legal counsel for the T'Sou-ke Nation.

But the minister says he did consult with First Nations. "Basically, First Nations were consulted on this decision and I considered interests concerned and raised and other factors, before making the decision," Coleman said.

The T'Sou-ke Nation wants to regain control of some of its traditional land and is concerned by the amount of land leaving provincial control.

"The T'Sou-ke Nation is not satisfied with the level of consultation and accommodation that it had with respect to this land removal," said Noubet.

"We had very brief discussions with the logging company and the government at which time we fully opposed these lands being taken out of the TFL," said a band manager from the Pacheedaht Nation. "The opportunity to complete a viable and honourable treaty has been seriously compromised by the government's decision to allow these lands to be subdivided and sold. We are worried about the access to our hunting grounds, our trails, our fishing grounds, our gathering sites and other cultural sites that will be lost."

LOSING CONTROL

The potential for the huge parcels of land to be subdivided into residential lots has sparked concern among residents in the communities of Shirley, Otter Point and Jordan River.

"As small rural unincorporated communities, we're not ready for [large scale development]," said Arnie Campbell, president of the Otter Point and Shirley Residents and Ratepayers Associations.

Campbell said his community lacks the tax base, governing bodies and infrastructure to handle major developments.

"Removing the private forest lands from the TFL to ease the debt of WFP will likely transfer that debt in part to the local taxpayers in Shirley, Otter Point and Jordan River. We will be required to pick up the cost of the infrastructure for the development," said Campbell, citing Sooke as a place which welcomed development and has faced nearly a 50 per cent increase in their residential tax levees.

Fire protection is nonexistent, said Campbell, and community amenities such as parks, trails, police, roads, schools, septic systems, transit, building inspection and bylaw enforcement would need to be created and maintained if major development in the area goes forward.

Yet the residents of these communities — along with Port Renfrew, East Sooke, two urban bands in Esquimalt and View Royal — elect a single director to sit on the CRD board as their representative. As unincorporated areas, they have no mayor and councils. The provincial government approves any subdivisions and determines where roads are built.

SOURCE: COLLIERS INTERNATIONAL BROCHURE

This sales brochure photo shows properties (in red) covering a large area of Shirley. If these properties are subdivided into a multitude of small residential properties, it will radically change their community.

SOURCE: COLLIERS INTERNATIONAL BROCHURE

This sales brochure photo shows the Jordan River portion of properties (in red), encompassing the Jordan River town site. The owner of these properties can restrict public access to popular beaches.

"We're saying we want to look at governance options," said Campbell. "We will continue to lobby the government, the CRD and the electoral area to ensure measures are in place so that development happens in an orderly way in the best interests of the community."

PACING DEVELOPMENT

The energy at the forum was both vibrant and directed: government must be responsive and accountable. Local residents need a real say about what happens in their communities and backyards. Nobody wants crucial elements of their lives dictated by people in distant government or corporate boardrooms.

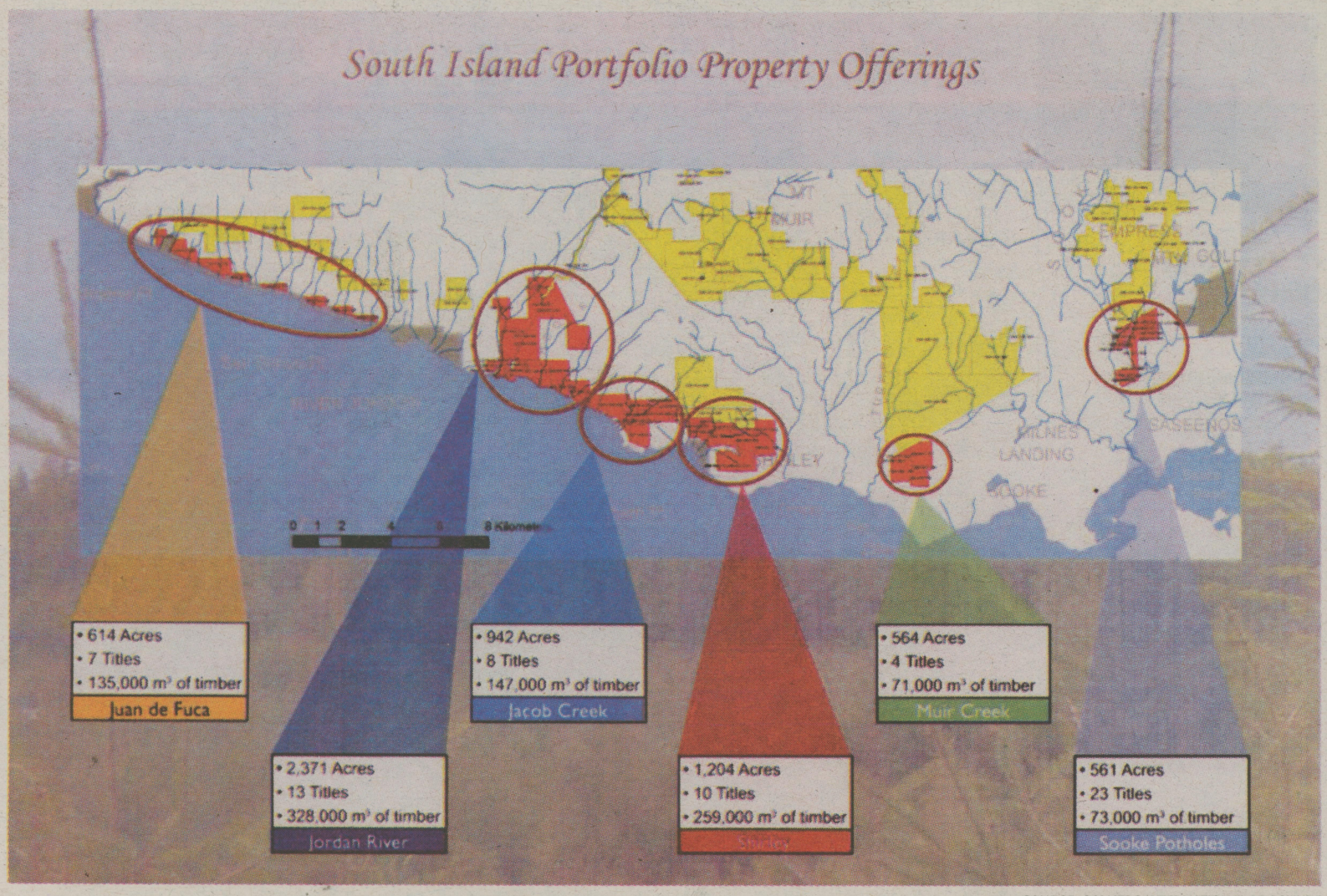
At a Nov. 14 meeting of the CRD board, a petition will be presented and a motion entertained to restrict subdivisions to a minimum property size of 300 acres. If successful, the motion would slow development by preventing dense residential developments.

If governments remain unresponsive, former Victoria mayoral candidate Ben Isitt said he would consider taking additional steps including civil disobedience. NDP MLA David Cubberly said he would support First Nations if they went before the courts to uphold their constitutional rights.

As for the surfers, a group on Facebook.com called "make Jordan river a park" has sprouted up with over 2,000 members. Claire MacDonald is one of the managers of that group.

"One thing that strikes me as compelling is the variety of people we have here," said MacDonald. "There are people sitting in this hall who I never thought I would be rallying with.

"I just think that if every single one of us writes a letter or stands up and makes a statement — with all of us coming from such varied backgrounds — there's no way anyone can look at that and still say the government protected the interests of the commons."



SOURCE: COLLIERS INTERNATIONAL BROCHURE

A Colliers International sales brochure highlights Western Forest Products' private lands West of Victoria in red. The properties are located in the popular recreational areas including Jordan River, the Sooke potholes and the Juan de Fuca trail, and in rural communities such as Shirley.

Getting syringes at Victoria's needle exchange

Anna Turje

I walk past the the guy who's tripping out. He's stopped dancing and kicking the wall repeatedly long enough to slur something at me because I obviously don't belong there. But I ignore him and smile at the kind looking black man in a cap. "Is this the needle exchange?"

He smiles back, "Yeah."

"Is this the lineup here?" motioning to the people leaned up against the wall breathing frosty breath and cigarettes.

"Nope, just go on in."

The Victoria needle exchange on Blanshard Street is smaller than I expected — the waiting room is not much larger than my bathroom. It's less institutional and more cramped than I thought. I was expecting it to be like the fluorescent, sparkly clean injection site in Vancouver.

There's a man slumped in one corner, swathed in blankets, eyes half closed. Others slump in chairs.

A bedraggled young man behind the desk comes in from another room, snapping off a rubber glove. "I'll be with you in just a minute." He leaves. Another man with salt and pepper hair sits down.

"What can I do for you?"

"Ineedaneedle," I say too quietly.

"What?"

"I need a needle."

"I can't hear you, speak to me."

"Um ... I need a needle."

He pauses. I don't think this is what he was expecting from me. I'm pretty sure I don't look like the type, but he hides it. "OK, what's your code number?"

"I don't have one. I've never been here before."

"Never?"

"Nope."

He leans back in his chair. Perhaps he thinks I'm a kid trying for the first time. But he's being neutral because he knows what his job is, and he knows that I have the right to safety.

"You'd better take two syringes then. Wipe your arm with this alcohol swab before you shoot."

I take the two syringes, alcohol swab and two blue plastic things that he hands me. The blue plastic things contain 3.5 ml of sterile water and say "Sterile water. Not for injecting. For inhalation." I'm still not sure what that means.

"Use them, and then throw them out. No sharing."

"Yeah, rule number one, no sharing," the woman in a chair next to the desk says to me. "No sharing waters either. Not even spoons."

I smile at her and thank her. Her face is round and kind and her eyes are sincere. She knows a thing or two, I think.

The guy behind the counter tells me that if I come again, I'll have to register and get a number. I think of telling him that I won't be back, but I just quietly thank him and say goodbye, stuffing the needles into my backpack, and walk out of there past the line of people with my head spinning.

I sit on a bench a block away to look at the needles. They're smaller than I expected. Evidently, it doesn't take much junk to do the trick.

Later, I wish I had brought a pack of cigarettes so I could smoke outside with the users there and talk to them, hear what they had to say. See through different eyes. Take advantage of the fact that for those few moments at the needle exchange, I was one of them.

But I quit smoking almost three weeks ago. Cold turkey. And even that was so hard that my roommates had to talk me down and feed me apples while I was nicking out. I can't even imagine heroin addiction.

Imagine I really was a first time user. I had a place to go. They didn't try to preach ideology, they gave me what I needed to be safe, and they did it well. There was a sort of camaraderie there. There was real compassion. I did not feel judged.

When people are pushed so far over the edge that they finally turn to injection drugs, they are not likely to be thinking too much about their health. The fact there is a place where they can find safe equipment and instruction in this city is a godsend. Injection drugs are usually the last place to turn for the most marginalized people in our society.

If the needle exchange is shut down, we'll marginalize them further by forcing them to turn to unsafe methods. Places that provide services for the most stigmatized people in our society deserve more funding. They deserve more than two overworked people and waiting rooms larger than my bathroom. They deserve respect.

Relationships go under the mic at comedy show

What: Just for Laughs comedy tour
When: Thurs., Nov. 15 @ 7:30
Where: Save-on-Foods Memorial Centre
How Much: $35.50

Melanie Tromp

Victoria's loved, loveless and lovelorn are in for a dose of funny with the Just for Laughs comedy tour.

The stand-up ensemble show returns to Victoria with a central theme for the first time in tour history, incorporating the topic of relationships — family, friends and children — for six comics to pontificate about in terms of the "ties that bond us and the ones that break us," said tour publicist Corinne Leon.

"I'll talk about marriage," said comedian John Wing, on the phone from his brother-in-law's home in Ontario, mid-breakfast. "I'll chat about how sometimes you want to, you know, kill her, and how sometimes she wants to kill you.

"Really, to make things work, a guy only needs to know four words: oh, yeah, right and sorry."

Wing left his small-town Ontario life in 1978 to be a rock star in Toronto — a plan that didn't quite pan out. Wing's band, The Pontoon Brothers, folded shortly after his arrival. But the move was the impetus to get Wing into the proverbial big city, marking the start of a career in show-business.

Now a Los Angeles resident, Wing has been working the professional stand-up circuit for 28 years and has performed on network television more than 100 times, including appearances on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, the A&E special *An Evening at the Improv* and *Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher*. This is Wing's second time on the bill of a Just for Laughs cross-Canada tour.

During downtime on the road, Wing has managed to publish five collections of poetry, the last of which is set to be released this winter and is titled *The Winter Palace*. Wing describes the volume as "a greatest hits CD."

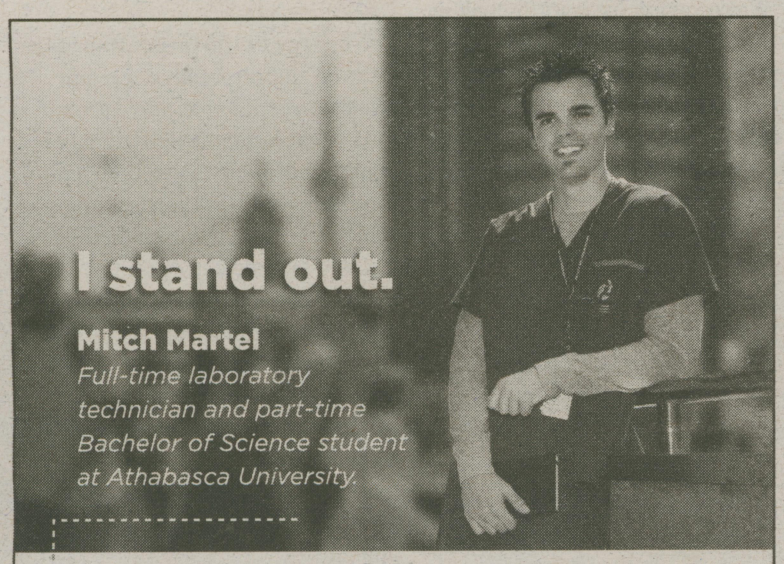
Wing discussed the comedy industry in Canada between bites of sausage and sips of coffee, saying that the market for laughs is a relatively new commodity for the nation.

"It grew up around me in Canada. There was nothing for us in the early '80s, but by 1984 I was able to make a living at it," said Wing. "When Yuk Yuk's started to franchise, people saw that money was being made in comedy."

Wing performed at Victoria's original Yuk Yuk's franchise in its heyday in the late '80s to what the comic calls a "good-humoured crowd." The comedy chain has recently purchased ads in the Times Colonist to gauge the business sector's interest in re-starting the establishment in this city. "I'm sure Victoria will do greatly with another club," said Wing, just before grabbing another sausage and just after having his in-law list off all of the famous people who hail from his hometown of Sarnia, Ont.

Wing frequents the Yuk Yuk's clubs when he's north of the border, noting that Vancouver-born newcomer Paul Hanley "is going to be very popular someday soon," though he wouldn't name the best act in the current Just for Laughs tour lineup.

The western leg of the tour also features host Greg Behrendt, author of *He's Just Not That Into You* and a consultant for *Sex & the City*, who will be joined on stage by breakout festival performer Tom Papa, Kevin Brennan, Australia's Fiona O'Loughlin and Louis Ramey.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Small Sins to woo Victoria

Alex Grant

Who: Small Sins
Where: Logan's Pub
When: Nov. 13 @ 8 p.m.
How much: $10

PROVIDED PHOTO

Toronto band Small Sins won't be breaking from their hectic tour.

Small Sins, Thomas D'Arcy's predominantly solo project, is proving to be a rising gem.

Uncovered in Toronto's fertile indie scene, Small Sins is following in the large footsteps of other Toronto-bred stars. They've been trekking across the border to attain critical acclaim in the States as well as in Canada.

At the time of this interview, D'Arcy was "sweating his ass off" in Austin, Texas. But Small Sins will be making its way back to the homeland to play in Victoria at Logan's Pub on Nov. 13.

Things have progressed on a steady and well-deserved incline for indie veteran D'Arcy. Having broken away from his long-term band, the Carnations, due to politics and internal conflicts, he found himself essentially creating Small Sins' first EP entirely by himself.

"The first one had to be perfect," D'Arcy said. "I had to make the record on my own — I wanted to prove to myself that I could do it."

Having put together a touring band of amazing musicians — Steve Krecklo (guitar, banjo, keyboards), Todor Kobakov (keyboards), Brent Follett (drums) and Kevin Hilliard (full-time clapper), D'Arcy found Small Sins evolving into something resembling a band — not a strictly solo project.

In recording the follow-up EP, *Mood Swings*, D'Arcy allowed for some outside involvement.

"It's a little bit scary to let people back in — I always have that fear that it will turn exactly back into the situation it was before ... but usually it works in a really good way."

The live shows impacted the development of *Mood Swings* as well. The first album had a very hushed quality which could not be entirely translated when played live.

"The record sounded so different than what the live show became that people became polarized by it — they liked one or the other," he said. "This one's just a little bit closer to the show. I'm using my high voice a little bit more."

Mood Swings is laced with an undercurrent of catchy pop-hooks, gun imagery and lyrics about confrontation and fear of conflict. D'Arcy was also in a gun club during his university years — is there perhaps the slightest hint of sadism here?

"I guess I used [the metaphor] a few too many times ... but I don't have an infatuation with weapons. Guns are bad," D'Arcy said.

The focus on Toronto's indie scene and break-out artists such as Feist, Broken Social Scene and K-OS facilitated a lot of D'Arcy's success.

"Seeing a bunch of bands [from Toronto] doing really well gives you that confidence that things are possible. If you talked to me 10 years ago, I would not be thinking about going to Austin or anywhere else in the States," D'Arcy said. "They make it possible for people like me to succeed."

With Small Sins' growing success, more resources became available to D'Arcy. For example, he had the chance to work with studio guru John McEntire in Chicago during the development of *Mood Swings*.

"I'd bring in songs that were not quite finished, and within 20 minutes with John, problem solved," D'Arcy said.

D'Arcy is taking virtually no time to rest up after he and the band are done their current tour. Already six songs into a new album, Small Sins will be in the studio during January and February, with hopes of touring again in March. But this jam-packed schedule is exactly how D'Arcy wants it.

"I'm really happy to be able to do what I want to do. A few years ago, I was trying to juggle jobs, now [music] is pretty much all I do. It's how I've always wanted it — it's kind of like living the dream," D'Arcy said with a laugh. "It doesn't feel dreamy, but whatever this is, I made my bed. Now I have to lie in it."

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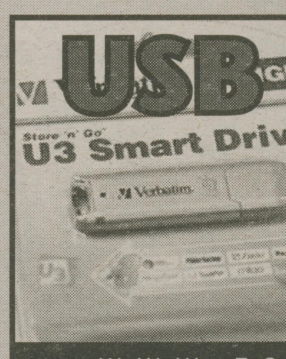
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MOVIE REVIEW

Sleuth will compel

Samantha Garofalo

What: *Sleuth*
Where: Vic Theatre
When: Nov. 9 @ 7 & 9 p.m.

Many who have not seen the 2007 film, *Sleuth* describe it as a remake of the original 1977 version.

The term "fascinating transformation" provides a more accurate description. This film's plot may be based on the original 1977 model, but the newest version engages the audience in an enticing game of words not found in the original.

Sleuth is set in a large house filled with technical gizmos, glass and metal. Andrew Wyke (Michael Caine) is the owner of the house preparing for a visitor named Milo Tindel (Jude Law).

Wyke and Tindel are both in love (or at least obsessed) with Wyke's wife and thus the rivalry emerges. They fight using wit and conversation, and it is this that transforms the 2007 version into a film of its own, rather than just another remake.

The suspense in this film relies on who wins the conversational battles, not about who wins the wife. During the first five minutes there is no clear view of the characters' faces. In some scenes their heads are not even present. While providing the eye with refreshing cinematography and stimulating visual imagery, this film also allows the audience to listen to Caine and Law at work.

And listen is exactly what the audience should do. There is a tremendous amount of wordplay throughout the film — answers that don't seem to fit the questions, statements so obvious that some other meaning must be meant. Viewers are constantly challenged to identify true intentions. Can we tell which man truly wants the wife? Which man won the particular battle, and which man won the war?

Interestingly enough, Caine played Tindel in the 1977 version alongside Lawrence Oliver as Wyke. Caine now picks up the role of Wyke impeccably. He captivates the audience with his steady core and sharp staccato, played in harmonious perfection with the script and camera work.

It is Caine who truly pushes this film to its potential, although Law does a good job as well and certainly has scenes where his talent truly peaks.

But Law doesn't always hold strong against Caine. Considering the character ("Characters named Milo Tindel never have a chance," said Wyke), it might not be fair to throw the criticism at Law completely.

Sleuth is worth the $10 at the box office by a long shot — though it might do viewers more justice to save their money to purchase it instead. Those wrapped into the film's intrigue will be compelled to watch it over and over again.

Aboriginal art breaks new ground

Rosemary Westwood

A black and turquoise woven skirt. A photo of a bridge that fades into darkness. Slender wooden carvings and a warm bed of pebbles to lie in.

Not what you expected from aboriginal artists? Exactly.

Saturday, Nov. 3 marked the grand opening of Victoria's first Aboriginal Underground Art Crawl, where 10 artists of various cultures and traditions filled galleries across the city with works that break new ground and expand our notions of what makes up aboriginal art.

"Today we're finally finding some empowerment in this world," said Brenda Christine St. Pierre, a Métis artist and fine arts student at UVic whose installation work showed at Open Space.

The Fifty Fifty Arts Collective and the Ministry of Casual Living joined Open Space as venues for the crawl, which came on the heels of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria's symposium Transporters, about tradition and innovation in aboriginal art, specifically Coast Salish art.

"There's an incredible momentum happening right now," said co-curator Marlaina Buch. "New ground is being broken and it's about damn time, quite frankly."

Buch noted the Transporters exhibit at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and the fact that Norval Morrisseau recently had a solo show at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa as examples of successful aboriginal art.

"We're coming to an age where aboriginal artists are getting some of the recognition and respect that is long due," agreed St. Pierre.

Spanning three walls, St. Pierre's installation involves the weaving of thin strips of cedar with metal, electrical conduit, nickel and copper wire, horse hair, Hudson Bay blankets and mink and otter pelts.

She said her weaving speaks to the idea of connection, disconnect and the creation of a place for aboriginal people within the dominant society where they can "transform and evolve out of that mythic Indian or that tradition Indian or all those little boxes and stereotypes."

Another UVic fine arts student and featured artist, Cara-Lyn Morgan, described the event as "significant, healing and hopeful."

"For me it was really humbling to be considered among these very contemporary, very talented aboriginal artists," Morgan said. "It breaks the boundaries of what people expect of aboriginal artists. It starts to show the diversity of the community."

Morgan's work is inspired by her mixed heritage (which includes Métis and African-Caribbean roots), and features oil paintings of slave ships evoked with the bright blue, yellow and fuchsia hues of the Caribbean.

"I'm interested that I come from an ancestral line that can be traced back to the first people, the people that have been here since the beginning of time," she said. "And I also have an ancestry to people who were abducted and brought here in cargo bays."

Morgan said her work speaks of oppression, not just of African peoples, but of aboriginal peoples everywhere.

On a canvas treated like hide, Cheryl Henhawke's swirls of blue, mustard yellow and brown were inspired by water.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Cara-Lyn Morgan's paintings are inspired by her mixed heritage.

"I have a lot of people say this doesn't look like native art, which is very hard to take when you're a First Nations person, and I'm wishing to be authentic," Henhawke said. "The theme is always indigenous, always about moving forward as a people."

She said the act of painting for her is a way of "connecting to feelings and connecting to the spirit world."

For many artists, it was the first time showing with their contemporary aboriginal peers.

"This weekend has been a terrific, momentous weekend for aboriginal art," said St. Pierre, adding that many local aboriginal artists have a difficult time showing their work.

The pieces showing at the Fifty Fifty have already been removed, but the exhibit runs until Friday, Nov. 9 at the Ministry of Casual Living and until Saturday, Nov. 10 at Open Space.

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Monday, Nov. 19 to Friday, Nov. 23, 2007
10:30 am to 11:30 am **SUB B011**

Modern dancers romp on stage

Deb Daudin

An eclectic array featuring some of Canada's most innovative modern dancers took to the stage at the 10th annual Romp Festival, Nov. 1 to 4.

Every year, Suddenly Dance Theatre puts out a call for submissions, looking for works that explore dimensional, political and artistic messages from independent artists. Miles Lowry and David Ferguson, artistic directors of Suddenly Dance, strive to bring quality work from emerging and established choreographers to Victoria that reflect a pulse in the international dance scene.

The festival opened Thursday with a special program bringing together spoken word and dance. *Present/Tense Two* featured 10 local writers reading selections of their work while dancers responded, improvising to the sound, syllables and intent of the piece. Definitely one of the highlights of the festival, it was hard to believe that it was the first time the dancers had heard the works they were moving to.

Many of these dancers also performed their own works during the festival, and spectators at the Metro Studio had a chance to see another side of their choreographic skills if they came back for the Friday or Saturday evening shows.

The evening showcases, compiled of medium-length works, were choreographed and performed by dancers from Toronto, Vancouver and Victoria. As well as live dance, there were two dance-on-film showings, including one from Philippe Combes in France. Suddenly Dance is one of the backbones behind the Dance on Camera workshops that are held here annually, and Lowry and Ferguson premiered their new short film, *Aisling: We Saw a Vision*, during the festival.

The audience was appreciative of all of the pieces. However, the high energy and top-notch precision of Vancouver's Move was one of the more memorable numbers of the evening. In their show The Electronic Series, choreographer Josh Beamish created a unique fusion of dance genres in a fast-paced deconstruction of electronic music that blends ballet, jazz, hip-hop and contemporary dance. If you missed Move during the Romp festival, you will have a second chance to see them perform when then return to the Metro Studio on Sunday, Nov. 25 to perform Trap Door Party.

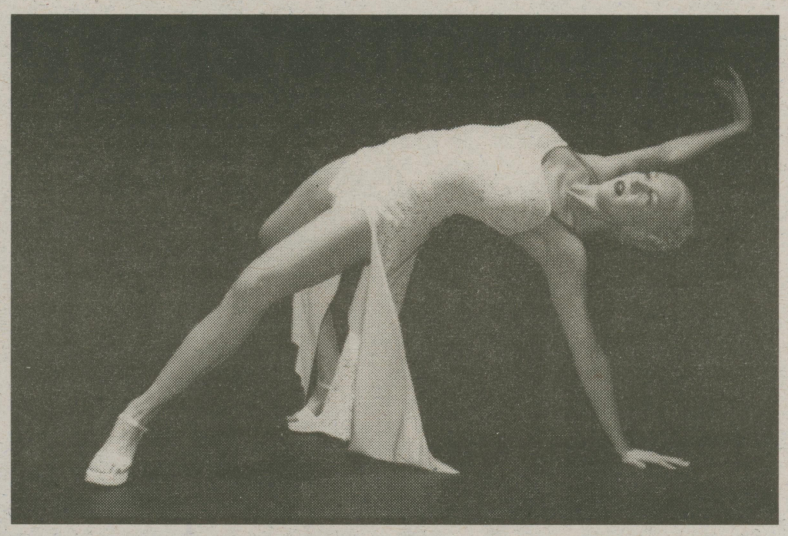

PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIEL COLLINS

Cori Caulfield bends over backwards in *Bought and $old* during Romp at Metro Studio from Nov. 1 to 4.

In a different vein, Cori Caulfield, also from Vancouver, wowed the crowd with *Bought and $old*, her solo that explores the effects of money on society, based on a text by William Cody Mahler. Known to Victoria audiences from previous appearances at the 2002 Romp festival, Caulfield's inimitable ability to move her statuesque body was enhanced by the costume (Mary Arnold) and lighting (J.P. Trepanier).

Other performances at the festival included a special program from Dance Films in New York, who presented two films featuring contemporary dance artists from across Africa, and an offering from Victoria's newest dance company SNAFU Dance Theatre who performed *BLiNK*. Choreographed by Ingrid Hansen, this challenging work featuring scantily clad dancers won the Pick-of-the-Fringe Best Dance/Physical Show at this year's Victoria Fringe Festival.

For 15 years, Suddenly Dance Theatre has produced creative dance projects in Victoria. Their work has spread to international renown as well as being supported by an ever-growing following throughout the dance community in the city.

ASK MISS MARTLET

Myths of full moon influencing behaviour are loony

Danielle Pope

Dear Miss Martlet:

When I was growing up, my parents always said people were crazier when the moon is full. Does a full moon actually have an effect on people, and if so, why?

- Moon watcher

Dear Watcher:

It's not just craziness the full moon's taken a rap for. Everything from traffic accidents to poisonings, casino payout rates, hockey fights, vampirism and epilepsy have been blamed on old Luny.

It's mostly urban legend. Since before humans could write there have been stories associated with odd occurrences around the full moon — occurrences that some believe still happen today.

Scientists have conducted countless studies to cement some full moon facts. But the results contradict each other, seeming to prove only that these events are no more likely to occur on a full moon than any other day in the month.

So why the society-driven assurance that our moon is affecting people? According to skepdic.com, the reason the moon influences us is because of, well, us. The website cites Ivan Kelly, a professor of educational psychology, and physicist Rodger Culver, as suspecting four real factors for moon-hype: media, folklore, misconceptions about the moon's strength, and cognitive biases (assurance because you've heard stories from influential people). This type of "communal reinforcement" through repetition is thought to fuel full moon mania. Another popular belief is the placebo effect: tell people they're going to feel something, and they'll feel it.

Despite the many myths, menstrual cycles have been associated with the full moon's powers. But while PMS can feel like a touch of insanity, the connection to the full moon is weak. The general belief is that women menstruate at the time of the new moon, and ovulate during the full moon. Scientific studies dispute the cause of this, with some claiming the 28-day menstrual cycle and the 29.53 day lunar cycle is just a coincidence. But moon, month and menstruation are all related etymologically, and the moon controls the Earth's bodies of water (causing tides). Since the human body is 80 per cent water, it seems justifiable we'd fit in there somewhere.

How did these myths get started? Maybe a few cavemen watched the women of their clans grow rife with moodiness, anger, even a little insanity, each time the moon turned full. Or maybe a town crier saw something suspicious on a full moon night. Myths have been around since we could communicate, and often origins can only be guessed.

If you feel like doing your own research, visit calculatorcat.com for the daily lunar calendar. You can track your mood in each passing phase of the moon. Who knows — you just might become a believer. Or you might find it loony after all.

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

Problems, questions, concerns? Let Miss Martlet investigat for you. Send queries to missmartlet@martlet.ca.

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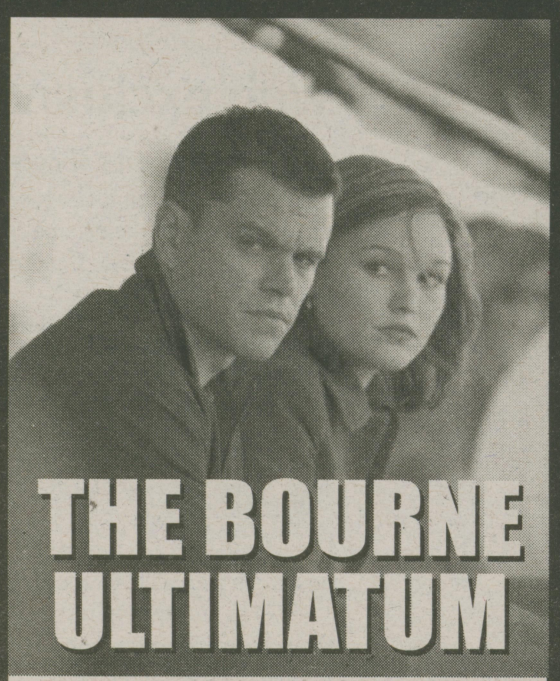

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MON 7:00 only

TOP TEN

FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 6, 2007

1. CARIBOU *
   The Pink Room Session (Merge)
2. VARIOUS *
   CBC Radio 3 Sessions, Vol. 3 (MapleMusic)
3. SUNSET RUBDOWN *
   Random Spirit Lover (Jagjaguwar)
4. VARIOUS
   Home Schooled: The ABCs of Kid Soul (Numero Group)
5. FOND OF TIGERS *
   Release The Saviours (Drip Audio)
6. DEEP DARK WOODS *
   Hang Me Oh Hang Me (Black Hen)
7. GHISLAIN POIRIER *
   No Ground Under (Ninja Tune)
8. MR. SOMETHING SOMETHING *
   Deep Sleep (World)
9. BEIRUT
   The Flying Club Cup (Ba Da Bing!)
10. RADIOHEAD
    In Rainbows (Self-Released)

* Canadian artist † local artist

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UVic alumni complete bike tour for cancer

Matthew Wilson

Last spring, Matthew Wilson teamed up with some friends to organize a seemingly impossible task: biking 1,000 kilometres to raise money for cancer research.

The eight-day journey started in Calgary and traversed the Rockies, across the Shuswap and the Thompson-Nicola Valley, and down the Coquihalla to Victoria. The 1000K for Cancer team consisted of UVic student Lars Brusven, Camoson College grad Joey Drolet, and UVic biology alumni Mark Ricketts, Dave Lingard, and Wilson.

The following is Wilson's account of the trip.

PROVIDED PHOTO

The team celebrates at Mile Zero after biking from Calgary to Victoria to raise money for cancer research.

When we began spreading word about our 1000K for Cancer bike trip, responses ranged from skeptics who thought we were crazy, to optimists who commended and applauded us, to those who were sensibly worried and gave us good advice. Bike shop experts whom we spoke with knew it would be a feasible but difficult ride. But each expert's voice held a distinct tone that expressed a touch of admiration mixed with apprehension. Nevertheless, we gloated in our lack of experience. Our impetuous confidence and determined spirits easily surmounted the traces of skepticism in our minds.

On Aug. 31, we began our journey. The enjoyable three-hour gallivants along the dead-flat Galloping Goose trail that we had scheduled into our busy summer lives as training had hardly prepared us for eight- to 10-hour days spent climbing 1,500 metre elevations on a painful seat.

We began the trek in Calgary, assembling our bikes in near-darkness until the rain poured down on us and a loud, bright lightening storm split the sky. My mind was kept awake by this meteorological omen and scattered apprehension about the old, second-hand touring bicycle I borrowed from my father.

The next day, the storm passed. However, not 10 minutes on the road from the invisible starting line, my chain jammed against a loose screw and I was left coasting down the highway as I watched my friends recede into the horizon. Things were difficult all day. We experienced a superfluous amount of bike troubles that none of us were prepared for, including flat tires, knotted chains, and brake pad misalignments. Constant repairs were necessary to work out kinks from our bikes's long, cramped flight in cardboard boxes.

All too often we had to get off our cursed, unergonomic saddles to rub and cringe as we adjusted our spandex to a new uncomfortable position before spending the next 30 minutes crouched on the shoulder of the Trans-Canada Highway inexpertly trying to change a flat tire. But bigger and better problems were yet to come — broken spokes, skipping gears and faulty brakes sometimes required intermissions at various bike shops along the way.

Soon we became fairly poised and efficient at changing flats as loaded semi-trucks or packed holiday vans whizzed by in a continuum of stifling traffic, noise and exhaust fumes. The heavy traffic was intimidating and unattractive, but the immensity and beauty of nature around and above us helped restore our thoughts.

We felt an ineffable sense of gratification and quiet joy as we silently spent hours visually exploring the soaring peaks of the Rockies. The difference between crossing the Rockies on bicycle for three full days and driving through them in half a day is equivalent to the disparity between an old-fashioned vacation and an all-inclusive package. We were still stuck on the highway, but it felt drastically more real than being in a car, as if we were actually conquering the scenery instead of just passing through it.

The most threatening problem during our trip was the toll on our legs. We all had tendinitis and our knees were swollen and tender by the end of the day. We iced every night before bed and popped a handful of ibuprofen in the morning.

Despite our nagging injuries, we biked between 100 and 170 kilometers each day. We rode through four national parks, powered through the 1,627-metre high Kicking Horse Pass and carefully traversed the treacherously slick, narrow and windy highway leading to Golden, B.C. We even survived the most excruciating ride in Canada over the 1,327-metre high Roger's Pass, where the climb was so slow that an uncompassionate coyote sniffed us out and shook its head at our snail-like progress from the bank of the highway. As we rolled into Revelstoke, B.C. one evening, a Jeep ahead of us skidded to a halt as a massive black bear dashed across the road. There was always something making us feel very small in comparison to the nature around us.

On our last day, after a long 10-hour, 170 kilometre power ride over the Coquihalla from Merritt to Chilliwack, B.C., we ran into two hours of bike trouble on the side of the highway, then a car show in Langley that stalled us just long enough to miss two ferries. But we were determined to make it home that night.

After an anxious ferry ride, we lugged ourselves back onto our bikes at dusk, strapped headlamps over our helmets, and rode down the pitch black, eerie homestretch of Lochside Trail. Twenty kilometres later, we glided into Mile Zero, calmly elated at our midnight arrival and the immeasurable silence that greeted our accomplishment. The next day, we received a welcoming celebration, as we rode back in to greet the cheers and applause of many supporters.

The money and time spent fundraising, the support and encouragement, the purpose and our positive motivations fueled us with inspiration. Our trip was an experience of perseverance, teamwork and challenge that we will always be proud of. During the ride, we overcame individual battles and team struggles that brought us closer together and gave us an immense sense of happiness and accomplishment.

We felt that the cause was particularly close to our hearts because nearly every family is afflicted by cancer or closely affected by the disease. Friends and family from across Canada, community members and local businesses showed tremendous support and generosity for our event. In the end, the ride raised over $5,000 towards research at the BC Cancer Agency.

Donations can still be made at http://donate.bccancerfoundation/goto/1000KforCancer.

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MEN'S RUGBY
Nov. 3 Vikes 28 Velox 27

WOMEN'S FIELD HOCKEY
@ CIS National Playoffs
Nov. 1 Toronto 2 Vikes 1
Nov. 1 Vikes 2 UBC 1
Nov. 2 Vikes 4 York 0
Nov. 3 Guelph 2 Vikes 1
Nov. 4 Vikes 3 UBC 1
RESULT: Bronze

WOMEN'S SOCCER
@ Canada West Playoffs
Nov. 3 Vikes 1 Manitoba 0
Nov. 4 UBC 3 Vikes 0
RESULT: Silver

MEN'S SOCCER
@ Canada West Playoffs
Nov. 2 UBC 2 Vikes 1
Nov. 3 Alberta 1 Vikes 0 (SO)
RESULT: Fourth place

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Nov. 2 Calgary 84 Vikes 56
Nov. 3 Vikes 73 Lethbridge 63

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Nov. 2 Calgary 64 Vikes 62
Nov. 3 Vikes 68 Lethbridge 54

Web exclusive

Salmon Kings beat Condors

The Victoria Salmon Kings netted three victories in their home series against the Bakersfield Condors on Oct. 31, Nov. 2 and Nov. 3.

www.martlet.ca
Visit our website for in-depth coverage of these stories and more.

The wins put the S-Kings in sole possesion of first place in the Western division. They now have 10 points in seven games with a 5-2-0 record.

S-Kings captain Kiel McLeod scored his first and second goals of the season during the Nov. 3 game.

"It's a huge relief for me," said McLeod.

Last-minute try not enough for Velox

Andrew Smith

It all came down to a final kick when the UVic Vikes men's rugby team visited the Velox Valhallians on Nov. 3. UVic fought back from an early deficit to take a huge lead, but Velox refused to stay down and nearly tied the game in the dying seconds.

The Vikes were up 28-22 late in the game and the pressure was on as the home side fans cheered from the sidelines. The last minute of injury time was some of the most intense rugby either team had seen this season. In a last ditch effort, Velox managed to break through the line and score a try to bring themselves within one point of the Vikes. A successful conversion would see the Valhallians win 29-28. If they missed, they'd lose by a single point.

With no time left on the clock, all the pressure was on Valhallians kicker Konrad Nikkel as both sides waited for the result. Velox waited at the halfway line linked arm in arm as they watched their teammate take the kick.

From the angle of the clubhouse, the kick was good and Velox fans began to cheer, but it veered left and their comeback was not be.

"I don't know when the last time was that we won at Velox," Vikes coach Doug Tate said after his team fended off the Valhallians for the 28-27 win.

Although UVic was first to score with a converted penalty by Ty Shannon, their lead was quickly stolen with a pair of tries caused by Velox's forward momentum. The Valhallians pushed the Vikes deep into their own 22 with their forwards pounding the defensive line. UVic's tackling was superb and they managed to hold off a number of set plays before Velox finally went over the line.

Tate was impressed with how his team stepped up their intensity — particularly in their tackling.

"They put their bodies on the line," he said.

But a deflated UVic side was pushed back into their own end with their kicking game failing to gain them much control down the field. The Valhallians once again utilized their strong forward line to blast past the Vikes for a second try.

The half ended 15-3 for Velox.

The second half saw a resilient UVic side come back with an onslaught of tries. Shannon opened the scoring for the Vikes by breaking through the Velox defense for a try. The Valhallians began to lose their composure as Rob Turk, Russ Ward and Ben Thomson went over to put the Vikes up 25-15.

Velox's frustration showed, resulting in a penalty which allowed third-year Vike Ben Grant to kick his side to 28 points. But the lead was abruptly cut down by a Velox forward pack mauling through the opposition. The successfully converted try brought the match at 28-22 before Velox's last try.

Next up, the Vikes will host the Cowichan Piggies at Wallace Field on Nov. 10.

ANDREW SMITH PHOTO

UVic's Ben Grant makes a pass to teammate Gordie Sawers on Nov. 3.

NBA needs to rebuild image this season

Matt Lundy

After a 2006-07 season ending in the NBA's most lopsided and boring finals series to date, the league now faces its most pivotal season in the post-Jordan era.

The summer provided problems for a league struggling with image and public perception. Isiah Thomas and the New York Knicks embarrassed themselves in a widely publicized sexual harassment civil trail. Tim Donaghy, an NBA referee, threatened the league's integrity when he was involved in a betting scandal where he gambled on games he officiated in and had ties to the mob.

Still, the NBA remains compelling. The athletes are phenomenal, Seattle's Kevin Durant is unlike any player before him, the Phoenix Suns are the most entertaining team since the '97 Chicago Bulls, and the decline of Stephon Marbury's mental health in public venues has made the Knicks even more dysfunctional.

Here are some predictions for the upcoming season.

BEST RECORD: The Phoenix Suns

The Phoenix Suns plan to play quicker this season, if that's possible. Nash has a couple of years left in him and the addition of Grant Hill will bring veteran leadership. Should you bet on them versus the Spurs in a seven-game series? Nope. But the regular season is entirely different. This team could pull off two 15-game winning streaks. Look for the Suns to crack 60 regular season wins.

SLEEPER PICK: The Denver Nuggets

How could a team boasting Allen Iverson, Carmelo Anthony, Marcus Camby, and Kenyon Martin not fare well? Forget that Camby and Martin have more fragile bone structures than Hollywood actresses — the Denver Nuggets are loaded with talent, including role players such as J.R. Smith, Linas Kleiza, and Nenê.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: Kevin Durant

Kevin Durant plays for a hapless Seattle Supersonics team which is depleted of veteran stars and seems prepared for a move to Oklahoma City. But basketball fans salivate at Durant's potential. If coach P.J. Carlesimo has any sense, Durant will get free reign for 20-plus jump shots per game. The Sonics may fail to win even 25 games, but if Durant goes for 22 points and eight boards per game, the season will be a victory of sorts.

BIGGEST CONCERN: The Durant Effect

When David Noel and Ersan Ilysova start jacking more shots come March than Michael Redd, one of the league's most lethal shooters, there is a major problem. David Stern, commissioner of the NBA, has failed to address teams tanking games late in the regular season in hopes of bolstering their chances of earning a number-one draft pick. Dub this The Durant Effect: with an influx of NBA-level talent forced to play a year of college ball under new draft regulations, some of these players (i.e. Durant) will flourish and some NBA teams looking to rebuild will start tanking games to nab these break-out stars. If Stern doesn't fix this problem by spring, expect the Minnesota Timberwolves and Philadelphia 76ers to load their line-ups with hacks (i.e. Shavlik Randolph) so they can swipe soon-to-be stellar freshmen such O.J. Mayo (University of South Carolina) and Michael Beasley (Kansas State).

MVP: Amare Stoudemire

Amare Stoudemire will steal some media adoration from Steve Nash by returning to his 2004-05 form and earning MVP. Reports out of Phoenix indicate Stoudemire is more explosive than last year, which was his first full season since returning from microfracture surgery. Shawn Marion will contend he is the best player on the Phoenix Suns and later cry himself to sleep.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 8

Your Right to Know: How to Access Public Records
4 p.m.
UVic, Cornett B107
Citizens, researchers and journalists have the right to access information held by governments, universities and other public institutions. Readily accessable public information is essential to having more open and accountable government, a more informed electorate, and greater citizen participation in the democratic process. Will Horter will share his insights into using freedom of information laws to access public records.
Info: maned@martlet.ca, 721-8361

NOVEMBER 10

Live Stand-up Comedy
9 p.m.
Murph's place, Vacation Inn
3020 Douglas St. (& Finlayson)
will feature Standup Chris Molineux, a UVic grad who has worked with Jim Carey, Jerry Seinfeld, Norm Macdonald and Ellen Degeneres. November 17th will feature an all female show with local middle act Katie Bell and National headliner Rachael Deslaureis. No cover.
Info: 389-9962

NOVEMBER 15

Lecture: How Green is the British Columbia Energy Plan?
7 PM
UVic, McKinnon bldg, room 150
Dr. Shaffer will present a general overview of three research papers critiquing the economic and environmental impacts of the provincial government's Energy Plan, and explore sustainable, socially responsible alternatives.
Info: www.bc-creeks.org

NOVEMBER 16

CAFÉ FAIRFIELD'S POETRY GALA
7 – 9 p.m.
1335 Thurlow Road
This free event, devoted to the enjoyment of writing and reading verse, is open to all and will include wine and music, book sales and casual "networking."
Info: 592-9340

NOVEMBER 17

Water: Ours to Protect
8:30 a.m. (all day)
St. Aidan's United Church, 3703 St. Aidan's St.
Speakers on conserving water, P3s and local issues. Volunteers needed.
Info: 721-8629

NOVEMBER 21

Luncheon: "The World is Yours"
11:30 am
University Club, UVic.
Join Canadian Federation of University Women Victoria to hear Dr. Gordon Smith, Centre for Global Studies, on "The World is Yours," at the Scholarship and Bursary Lunch. New members welcome.
Info: cfuw.org

NOVEMBER 26

UVIC PRIDE Annual General Meeting
4:00-7:00
SUB (downstairs) B028
Members, elect your executives! All positions open for nominations. UVic Pride is open and welcoming to all queer and queer-friendly persons!
Info: uvicpride@uvss.uvic.ca or drop by SUB B118

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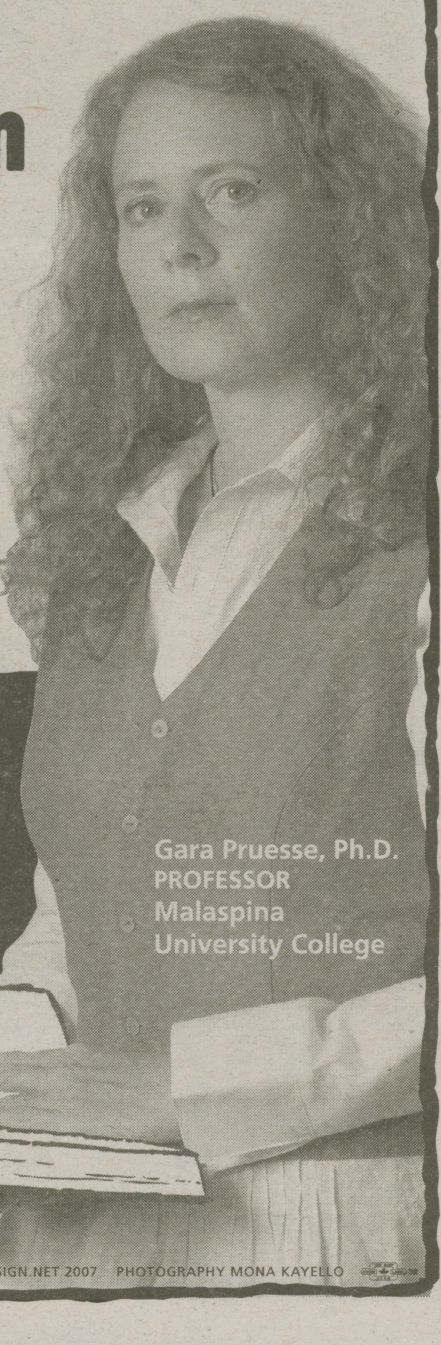

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